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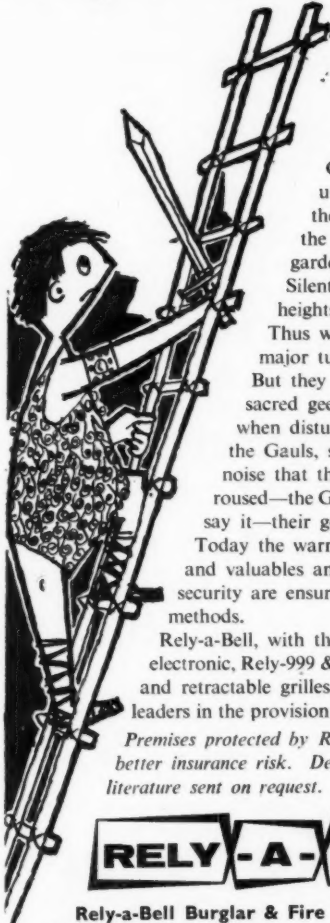
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# SECURITY GAZETTE

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*Security Gazette*



## Strengthening Bank Security

THE banks deserve some sympathy in the difficult and unfortunate position in which they have been placed by recent raids affecting their premises and personnel. Modern banking methods have evolved in the past century against a background of general social stability which has given the banks, as well as the ordinary householder, an underlying sense of security. They have been able, within the law's and the police's protective screen, to concentrate on consolidating their business rather than on creating an elaborate security framework of their own. Nor have their strong room precautions been seriously jeopardized: usually the locksmith and safe maker have been more than a match for the intruder.

But the banks now face a disturbing situation. Competition requires that they make their premises attractive. The new range of customer they are seeking tends to prefer a light, airy, perhaps "contemporary" atmosphere. Emphasis is on encouraging people to enter banks—not on discouraging them psychologically by an apparatus of iron bars, hidden cashiers, and steel doors. Yet at a time when confidence is all-important, events have indicated that bank security has not always been equal to the forces deployed against it. What steps can the bankers now take?

First, they should face up realistically to their relations with the Press. The report in this issue of the *Gazette* reveals strong feelings against the reporting of bank raids. The idea seems to be prevalent that such news—which is as much a matter of public safety as of public interest—ought to be tucked away in small type. Yet what evidence is there of sensational exploitation of these incidents? Of course the stories gain headline prominence—they are of headline importance. But under no circumstances ought the banks to attempt to stifle straight reporting of crimes or to claim special privileges for themselves. Society is entitled to know what is happening in its midst. And if people are not given full information, how can a strong public opinion be built up to help the forces of law and order?

To this the banks may reply that Press description of crime appears to foster more crime. It is an argument the public will find difficult to accept. It could be said equally that advertising a bank's name makes

a criminal think of it in his anti-social moments. In our November issue we reported how Press co-operation, willingly given, was of value in reducing the number of bomb hoaxes by silly persons telephoned to London airport, a policy in which editors are well experienced. The banks indeed might well be helped in a similar way by the full reporting of failures to rob their premises—were the banks to release information of some value. But is it seriously believed that skilled thieves and desperadoes decide their course of action only after reading the morning paper? Perhaps they do when they read of heavy sentences: yet another form of Press co-operation no one bothers to commend.

Secondly, the banks would do well to consider the appointment of professional security officers. By tradition and precedent security is the responsibility of the Chief Inspector, who is charged with a wide variety of duties. Undoubtedly these officials have an excellent administrative experience and do their job most conscientiously. The point is, however, that security is a technique and skill peculiar to itself. Hence the employment of specialist security officers in industry and commerce, men accustomed to close police liaison. It must appear strange that the banks are among the last sections of big business to maintain an aloofness from this new race of advisers.

Thirdly, the old-fashioned prejudice against mutual help should be abandoned. A successful raid on any one branch is a success in the public and criminal mind against the banking system. Sir Philip Margetson, reported in this issue, has shown for example how an effective patrol routine could easily be instituted by inter-bank co-operation.

Action on these lines alone would be of positive benefit, and would show hostile critics that the banks are fully alive to their security needs, as is of course well known in the security world. Inquiry usually reveals—when the cloud of suspicion miscalled "security" can be penetrated—how conscious bank managements are of their responsibilities to customers and staff. Unfortunately, tradition and sensitivity sometimes lead to a sense of misguided dignity. Real security, we suggest, can only come from open acceptance of events and a bold alliance with modern knowledge.

## Picketing at Swaffham

**P**OLICE and workers at the R.A.F. Swaffham rocket site were put in a most invidious position when members of the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War invaded the installations early this month. The site had been picketed since 11th November, as Mr. George Ward told the Commons later. Then on 6th and 7th December, R.A.F. police were confronted by an organized attempt to obstruct building operations. The campaign's members had been instructed by their leaders not to use violence. They succeeded in penetrating into the restricted area through the barbed wire fence on the 6th, and on both days attempted to interfere with the passage of lorries.

Naturally enough their intrusions provoked action to clear the site. Mr. Ward stated the demonstrators offered "a great deal of very violent resistance". Mr. Silverman claimed violence had come from the police. When tempers are aroused by this kind of "direct action" it is always difficult to say afterwards where violence crept in and where it did not. The simple fact is nevertheless clear that the police had no alternative but to eject the intruders as effectively and quickly as possible. Since the campaigners are reported to be watching a second site 10 miles away, it would be wise to erect more efficient defences with some speed. There is no reason why properly-constructed fences, however temporary, should interfere with building. Then the police may be able to prevent entry which is the basic precaution against violence and damage.



*Above: an attempt to penetrate the wire barrier, resisted by a R.A.F. policeman.*

*Below: a demonstrator at Swaffham escorted by a member of the rocket site's security force.*

## No Lament for Serov

**G**ENERAL Ivan Serov's "transfer to other work" implies his dismissal from the post of chief of the K.G.B., the Committee of State Security which organises the Russian intelligence and counter-espionage services. His men formed the country's secret police and, though he could express wonder at his reputation abroad, he had a fearsome record, mainly based on his work before he replaced Beria in 1954. The inhuman deportations from Poland and the Baltic States in 1939 and 1940, which he is said to have directed, were rewarded by the Order of Lenin and he gained further Soviet decorations for his activities behind the scenes in recent years. From 1941 to 1944 he was a deputy head of internal security under Beria; and subsequently is reported to have again organized the large-scale deportations from the Crimea and the creation of prison-labour gangs. He appeared on the Hungarian scene during the October revolution of 1956.

Such a history gave him no welcome when he came to Britain in 1956 to arrange security measures for the visit of Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Bulganin. The Soviet authorities misjudged British reactions and were discreet, to say the least, to remove him from their entourage.

Serov's story is grim evidence of what "State security" can mean under totalitarian rule, paralleled by the character of Himmler's control of the Gestapo and S.D. services. Private citizens in Britain look with horror upon these ruthless tyrannies which are the very negation of British ideas of police duty. Our police are public servants, not public dictators. They are respected members of a democratic community. In that lies their strength; and on that basis they command public good will in the battle against crime—State, public and private.

*Security Gazette*

# CRIME PREVENTION IN PRACTICE

BY A. A. MUIR

*In this article, Mr. Muir, who is Chief Constable of the Durham County Force, translates in practical terms for the benefit of the public the axiom which was adopted by the police of the country at its inception :*

## PREVENTION OF CRIME IS OUR PRIMARY DUTY

THE Crime Prevention Department in the Durham County Police consists of a detective inspector and a clerk at headquarters. There are 11 territorial divisions in the county and each division in turn has been visited by a team of a dozen police officers led by the Crime Prevention Detective Inspector. The members of the team, all of whom have C.I.D. experience but also some knowledge of the campaign from their ordinary duties. It has been found to be an advantage if the officers not only have C.I.D. experience but also some knowledge of the area which they are going to visit.

### 1. PUBLICITY

The first step is to secure some publicity for the campaign, both within and outside the service. The purpose of the campaign is explained to the members of the division from the Divisional Superintendent downwards. By this means the help of all the serving members of the division will be secured in driving home the lessons of the campaign to the members of the general public. It frequently happens that a business man who has been visited by the crime prevention team will afterwards consult his local policeman and it is obviously important that the local policeman should know what lessons the campaign has been trying to teach.

Secondly, in order to secure the maximum co-operation from the public, the campaign starts with a Press conference and an appeal to the local papers to give as much publicity as they can to the campaign. This we have found them always willing to do.

### 2. THE BOOKLET

A booklet has been written by officers of the Durham County Police to explain concisely and simply the best ways to safeguard property. It describes various kinds of locks and safes and also contains advice to farmers on the best way to site corn and haystacks. Copies of this booklet are available for members of the public in the police stations of the division while the campaign is on and they are also carried by members of the team when they pay visits to business premises.

### 3. THE CAMPAIGN VISITS

The object of the campaign is to visit every single business premises in the division during the course

of a few weeks. The object of these visits is to interest the owners and occupiers in methods of crime prevention. It is obviously desirable, if possible, to see the owner of the business, or at any rate an individual with sufficient responsibility to authorise the carrying out of any recommendations which have been made. It is not always possible to see such a responsible person, especially at premises which are branches of large organizations. In the case of these premises a letter is always sent to the head office or the secretary of the company.

At the beginning of the visit the officers will first satisfy the person in charge that they are in fact policemen. They will then ask for particulars of any existing security arrangements. This always leads to a discussion of the handling and safe custody of cash, particularly wages.

## PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

No opportunity is lost to encourage managements to look into the possibility of paying wages by cheque. We urge them to seek the active co-operation of their employees and trades unions towards this end. There is no need to elaborate upon the merits from a security point of view of payment of wages in this form. Cheques cannot be stolen in transit and there is therefore, no danger to a cashier who might be injured or even maimed for life.

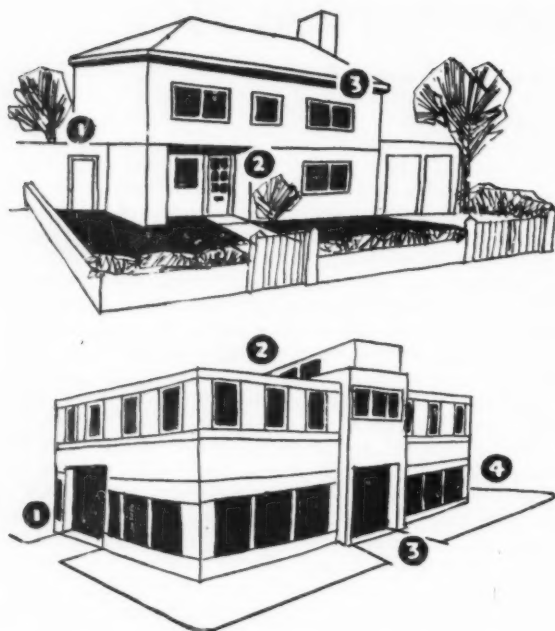
We do what we can to persuade managements to go over to cheque payments, but it is really necessary that there should be legislation before the payment of wages in cash entirely disappears from industrial life. It will be also necessary to persuade the average worker that it is all right for his wife to know his exact earnings and banks will also have to provide adequate up-to-date facilities. The advice varies from place to place but it is always based upon certain principles.

## HOW TO CARRY MONEY

Employers should feel themselves to be under a moral obligation to do everything in their power to protect their employees who have to handle cash. Large amounts of money should never be entrusted to the care of the old, the infirm or the unescorted young female. It is better to carry small amounts in a concealed pocket than in an obvious cash bag. If possible wages should be collected and paid out on the same day.

The time and route of collection should be altered as often as possible. If the use of a hired car or taxi is unavoidable, only reputable firms should be used and if possible the same driver should be hired on each occasion. If a firm has the slightest doubt about a driver allotted to them they should check with the owners of the taxi. It is better to use the firm's own car after it has been adapted for the safe conveyance





*Illustrations reproduced from a Durham County police booklet, 1954, designed to show householders and business firms where special precautions should be taken.*

The incidence of breaking-in was:

- House—1. Rear, scullery windows; 42%.  
 2. Front, door 19%, window, 12%.  
 3. Upstairs and roof, only 4%.

- Premises—1. Side door: 11%.  
 2. Upstairs: 7%.  
 3. Front, door 26%, window 20%.  
 4. Rear windows, 20%.

of wages. It is easy to make this conversion by bolting or welding a lockable metal container into the boot of the car. At the bank the money is placed in this container which is then locked together with the boot. No keys are carried on the vehicle but a duplicate set may be kept by the bank. If one of the several immobilising devices is also fitted to the car an attacker would be faced with the task of breaking open a locked boot and container, perhaps in a busy thoroughfare.

#### DEFEATISM ENCOURAGES CRIME

Some firms seem to hold the view that an attacker should be allowed to take any money that he is after without fuss so as to avoid any unnecessary injury to the employees, especially as some insurance companies are prepared to make good the financial loss. We endeavour to discourage this view. A successful attack made by a criminal is likely to encourage him to go on in crime and a young bully may become a successful criminal using firearms instead of a cosh. It is obviously more sensible to remove the money

to a safe place where the escort will be put in no danger.

#### THE SAFE

Money sometimes has to be kept on business premises. The amount of money so kept should be as little as possible, especially at holiday time when premises are particularly vulnerable. All surplus cash should be banked as often as possible and full use should be made of night safes at banks. Very often quite large amounts of money are kept overnight in old-fashioned safes. A 50-year-old, free-standing safe is as easy to open as a sardine tin. It is therefore often sensible to suggest to a firm that they should install a modern safe.

Safes should be built in with bricks or concrete or permanently secured by bolts, metal straps or other means to the floor or wall. This prevents an attack being made on the weakest part of the safe—its back, or alternatively the safe being carried away. It is sometimes difficult to persuade business men that it is easy enough to carry away a 2-cwt. safe. Wall safes are neat, robust and perfectly secure. Manufactured to correspond with brick sizes ranging from one brick to six bricks, they are so cheap that no small business should be deterred from having one.

Money or other valuables should never be left in desk drawers. A locked desk drawer is always an attraction to the thief who will do a lot of damage in forcing open every locked drawer in the premises he attacks.

#### SECURITY OF PREMISES

It is only after a campaign of this sort that the police realise how easy to enter most business premises may be. During a recent campaign we found that more than half of the 16,000 business premises visited could be broken into easily. The owner will often say either "It has never happened to me" or else "If they want to get in, they'll get in no matter what I do".

The campaign's first task is to break down this negative attitude. The argument we use is that more than half the breaking offences in Durham each year are committed by youths under the age of 18. They are obviously not very skilful criminals. A little attention to security, such as a mortice lock to supplement the night latch, suitable bolts, burglar bars or stout metal mesh on exposed windows can make premises comparatively secure.

The outward signs of security are often sufficient to deter thieves, the majority of whom are looking, quite naturally, to have their job made easy. In the same campaign more than 60 per cent of the recommendations made by the police have already been carried out. The people we have been able to help include not only three of the largest industrial undertakings in the country, who have asked us to co-operate in reorganizing the whole of their security arrangements, but also a number of small, independent shopkeepers and householders. We were, for instance, consulted by a widowed householder who had been driven almost demented by two burglaries in quick succession. Her mind was considerably eased when she found that with a few simple devices her home was made comparatively secure.

During the same campaign we talked with the architect of the local urban district council. As a result of this talk the architect decided to replace, with a sensible mortice lock, the night latches on the glass-paned front doors of the Council houses which were being erected. This kind of co-operation could obviously be extended. It would be pleasant to think that architects and builders might regularly consult the police about security of premises. It would be easier for these measures to be incorporated in the buildings when they were still on the drawing board.

### BURGLAR ALARMS

There are now modern burglar alarms which tell the police of an attack upon the premises and not the thief. We urge all business premises where this is appropriate to fit alarms of this kind. Already a very large number of thieves have been caught and if everybody who should fit these alarms did so the life of the thief would be made even more difficult.

It is of paramount importance that we should follow up each campaign to see whether the recom-

mendations have been carried out. In particular where no responsible person is actually on the premises to be seen it is important that we should contact the head office. In between campaigns the time of the detective inspector and his clerk is fully taken up with this follow-up correspondence.

### INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of the factors which ensures the success of the campaign, is if we can persuade the firm to make one member of the staff responsible for all crime prevention and security arrangements. If the firm is large enough we believe it is sensible for a special security officer to be appointed. We suggest that there should be publicity in works' magazines and rewards made for suitable suggestions similar to those offered for safety and efficiency.

The lessons that are taught in these campaigns are driven home at suitable times in public exhibitions at the County Show and other places in the county. We are satisfied that if all firms would follow the example of the most enterprising, the danger of bank raids or wages being snatched would be negligible.

## METROPOLITAN POLICE CAMPAIGN



The crime prevention movement in London has been taken a stage further with the institution of an energetic publicity campaign by the Metropolitan Police. It is being directed by the standing Inter-departmental Committee on crime, with Commander A. Townsend of 'A' Department in actual charge.

The poster shown left is exhibited in prominent places such as tubes, buses, and underground stations. Designed by Scotland Yard's advertizing contractors, it has bold and excellent eye-catching appeal. But in our view care ought to be taken in deciding on reductions in size for small sites: the several precautions advised do not enter the mind quickly when the lettering is reduced.

### PREVENTION IN BLACKPOOL

BLACKPOOL police intend, it is reported, to initiate a crime prevention movement in the town. Sergeant Day, of the Blackpool force, has been on attachment to the City of London police to learn various aspects of crime prevention technique.

### GLASGOW ALARM LECTURE

"Warning the police and not the burglar" was the subject of a talk on burglar alarms given by Mr. D. J. Moloney to the Glasgow branch of the Burglary Insurance Surveyors' Association last month. Included in the audience were Crime Prevention Police Officers from the various Glasgow Divisions.

Mr. Moloney, who is Sales Manager of Burgot Rentals Limited, brought with him a considerable number of working models and demonstrated both old and new methods of detecting burglars, ranging from a simple door contact to the latest ultrasonic devices.



# STEADY NERVES IN LOMBARD STREET

## Banks Displeased with Raid Publicity

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**T**HOUGH the banks have come in for some strong criticism of their security arrangements during the recent series of criminal activities, a review of their reaction and attitude shows that in general they are meeting the situation with their usual British phlegm. Discussion with their representatives reveals a feeling that the banks have gone through worse crises than the present and have come out on top. Naturally there is a good deal of reticence in statements made to your correspondent, which does not mean that spokesmen were other than courteously frank in their approach. To some extent one gains the impression that above all the stiff upper lip must be maintained. Indeed, with the Midland, the bank which has entered the headlines most often, the lips are altogether sealed. It considers that far too much publicity has already been given to bank raids and is not disinclined to blame the Press for building up the present atmosphere. Implied in this view is the criticism that the reporting of the incidents in itself is a contributory factor to the current wave. "It is not in the public interest," its spokesman said, "for any information to come from us."

### Critics Criticized

The Midland is in an unfortunate position, hence no doubt its sensitivity. Other banks sympathize—and touch wood. But they are in agreement on this point of publicity. Nor do they accept their critics' opinions that bank security is out of date. Many of the views expressed they consider to be irrelevant and unfounded in fact. For instance, it has been said that all banks ought to have some system of automatically cutting off a raider's escape. One inspector of a Big Five bank completely denied that a steel door would be at all



*Interior design to attract customers, as shown in this new Barclays branch in London, must also incorporate defensive methods against the modern bandit.*

effective. He asserted that the problem requires even in this example a much wider study, saying that his job was also to take the staff's interest into consideration. A perilous situation could arise were a gunman to be shut into a bank with six staff members at his mercy. Their lives were held far higher than the loss of money. A rival bank's spokesman also pointed out that the door might descend on, or otherwise injure, a customer entering or leaving. "A reasonable balance," he said, "must be maintained always between the possible cost and the possible gain."

### Number of Branches Involved

But the expense of carrying out the installation of precautionary devices is not itself held to be a prohibitive factor, though again actual cost is carefully assessed. The real question here, constantly reiterated, was the number of branches involved. There are some 12,000 bank branches in the

United Kingdom. To equip all of them, or even the most important, with automatic signals and barricades, or to strengthen strong rooms in the light of modern burglary knowledge, would necessitate months of work. "In any case," as one sufferer said, "the position is similar to that in the war between the gun and the tank." But he did not venture to say which he thought his bank to be nor, if it were the tank, to agree that a tank has offensive power besides steel plating in its armament.

### No Security Officers

Such feelings arise from the generally-held belief that the security of the banks is a matter for the banks themselves. I ascertained that not one of the Big Five has a professional security officer in its employment to deal with modern crime precautions. Barclays Bank has a security officer, but he has been appointed to supervise during rebuilding operations. In each of the Big Five

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security comes within the duties of the Chief Inspector's Office, this sphere being judged to be merely one of the many routine aspects of branch management traditionally controlled and inspected from his department. Thus he remains responsible for the choice of strong room and safe equipment and for staff training in day-to-day precautions and emergency drill as well as for the efficient over-all administration of internal branch affairs.

The arrangement is not thought to be unreasonable. It is justified by the firm belief in Lombard Street that only bankers with banking in their blood can really understand the particular problems involved and ensure their solution. A spokesman for Lloyds made the precise point, echoed elsewhere, that banking is an activity quite unlike commerce and industry.

#### Primary Duty

This is the reason for the second attitude I came across. Security is considered to be a matter which begins and ends at the bank's own door. There seems to be a general agreement on the principle that once money is paid in, it ceases to be, as it were, the customer's property and becomes the bank's. Hence the primary duty of any bank is to safeguard its own possessions by adequate day and night protection confined to the premises. What happens to a customer on the way to deposit money or returning with cash is entirely his and the police's responsibility. The question was put to one spokesman if he did not think that, whether a raid was carried out inside or outside the bank, the possible loss of public confidence was a serious affair? This led to some discussion from which the chief reply was that since 1937 the public had not lost a farthing of the money deposited in the banks and Britain was the only country in the world to show such a record.

#### No Share in Crime Prevention

Hence bank managements do not look upon themselves as active partners in crime prevention campaigns, whatever general interest they may show. The Westminster spokesman declared that he felt

December 1958

*A treasury vault door, typical of protection in a chief bank and safe deposit.*



there was no onus on a bank to try to educate the public. People were given full information on present perils by Press reports, which could be reinforced by police campaigns. Spokesmen for Lloyds and Barclays touched on another aspect in saying that, while they valued police advice, the police could not give banks the protection they sought—which leads back to the idea that a bank's first job is to look after its own interests in its own way. In one case mentioned to me, a branch manager warned a customer to be careful about the cash he was taking away. The reply was simply: "Let them try!" But when the suggestion was made in this investigation that such an attitude could be dispelled by proper bank propaganda (which might be visualized as the tank's own gun) the reaction was to wonder why it should be undertaken at all.

#### How Confident?

If the banks therefore reveal no inclination to see their security problems in the larger context of criminal activity, the question has to be asked: how confident are they that their security precautions are good enough to meet any raider's or cracksmen's challenge to their premises? In each case where this subject was raised, the

answer was that security measures are under constant review in the light of modern technical developments and that ideas for improvement are always studied with great care. Lloyds, for example, immediately after the war looked ahead to a possible period of post-war unsettlement and instituted a thorough examination, which has again been carried out after recent events. Other Big Five members emphasize that they are never satisfied and encourage their staffs to put forward suggestions for improvement. New forms of security applicable to premises and strong rooms put up by security firms are always closely scrutinized. Still, these declarations do not add up to an answer from the banks themselves. They are aware that in a continuing struggle one unfortunate event can assume disproportionate importance. They prefer, therefore, to attempt to put the whole problem into perspective: that they do not consider they are backward in their precautions and that the measure of their success is to be found in the exceedingly small amount of money stolen from their premises compared with the huge sums which annually pass through their hands. Against this background they are satisfied that their traditional practices and measures will see them through.

## "BANKS MAKE IT EASY"

COMMENTING on bank raids, the *Police Review* in a recent issue declared that the layout of banks might have been carefully designed to make things easy for the man with a gun.

"A long, wide, solid counter to serve him as a barricade, a grill that will stop anything thrown at him but is unlikely to deflect his own bullets, means of escape for the staff accessible only after crossing the whole floor of the bank to the doors at the back, and so on.

"While the custom of paying wages in cash persists, and cheques for total wages are likely to be presented on pay days demanding thousands of pounds at a time, a great deal of money must be kept within the cashier's easy reach instead of being in the strong rooms.

"Payment of wages by means of individual cheques would obviate, moreover, the senseless carrying of thousands of pounds at a time through the streets. . . .

"Some of the trade unions are opposed to the change, but among their reasons the only one that is really cogent is that the banks are not open at times when the working man can go to cash his cheque. They ought to be open. They are a public service."

To cope with 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 individual wage cheques every week would entail a heavy increase in bank staff, but this would make possible staggered hours so that opening times could be greatly extended.

### HOME OFFICE AND BANK SAFETY

Mr. H. Hynd recently asked the Home Secretary, in a Parliamentary question, how many bank robberies had occurred in the United Kingdom in each of the years 1948 to 1958, inclusive; how many of these in each year resulted in the wounding of bank personnel; and what arrangements had been made for the Metropolitan Police to consult the British Bankers' Association, the Employers' Council of the Trustee Savings

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Reproduced by courtesy Sunday Despatch.

"It's our new security rule—you'll have to accept a cheque!"

Banks and the Scottish Bank Employers' Federation with a view to improving security measures at all branches of their banks in the Metropolitan Police area, and so reducing the number and nature of these robberies.

In a written answer, Mr. Butler replied: "The statistical information for which the hon. Gentleman asks is not available. Assuming, however, that he has in mind entries into banks during working hours, I am informed that in the Metropolitan Police District there was one bank robbery in 1957, and three in 1958. No one was injured in 1957; two persons were injured in 1958. The security of bank premises must remain a matter for the proprietors, but the advice of the police is always available.

### 2,000 ARRESTS

Burgot Rentals Ltd. celebrated during the last week in November the arrest of 2,000 burglars so far. The actual 2,000th arrest occurred in Leeds, where an intruder broke into a food warehouse and was found by the police hiding in an inner office about six minutes after he had entered the building.

The company now claims that an arrest is effected by the police with the aid of its system nearly every night and in fact during the month of October 49 arrests were effected.

## MAGISTRATES ON THEIR DUTY

ENTHUSIASTS of all kinds propound their own views for dealing with the crime wave, stated *The Magistrate*, journal of the Magistrates' Association in a recent issue.

"We are told we need more prisons, more probation officers, more psychiatry, more flogging, more locked doors, better schools, better parents, better magistrates, better churches, better cinemas.

"In one way these are all right, but in another they are all wrong; for each of these in the last analysis is only a partial remedy. What we need is a better human society in which the will not to offend grows stronger, not weaker."

### TREATMENT OF DELINQUENCY

THE elimination from the scope of the criminal code of offences which are clearly indications of mental and physical disorder and do not involve other criminal acts is urged in the annual report of the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Delinquency. The report also makes it clear that the Institute needs funds to enable it to carry out proposed research projects, including one on shoplifting.

The Institute favours the handling of juvenile delinquents at the earliest possible stage by child guidance clinics and other social and educational organizations. It would like to see courts graded and organized in such a manner that offences could be screened and pathological types selected for non-penal treatment.

During the year, a grant of £1,000 was offered to the Institute by the Home Office towards the expenses of a research project on group relations in prisons to be carried out, under the direction of Dr. Hermann Mannheim, Director of Research to the Institute, by Dr. R. G. Andrey, who was responsible for drafting the project. The Institute, however, is not in a position to accept the grant unless a supplementary sum can be obtained from another source.

Security Gazette

# Digest of Security Measures

## *Advice Given by Expert Contributors in this Issue*

The Christmas holidays, followed quickly by the activity of the January sales, bring their special problems for industry and commerce and are a test of public and private security. The "Security Gazette" is glad to publish in condensed form precautions which managements, security officers, and the public can take. Make sure responsible people in your firm or organisation are aware of them.

### **SAFETY OF PREMISES**

Check all rooms after parties are finished to see no inflammable material or cigarette ends are left lying about.

Check specially when work is finished that fires, boilers and furnaces are out or properly dampened down.

#### **Against fire**

Inspect all alarm and sprinkler systems, and all extinguishers.

Review the periods of holiday and routine inspections to ensure fires can be quickly discovered.

Clear out waste and inflammable material immediately.

Check fire-proof doors and partitions are in position.

*If you have no security officer either appoint one immediately or bring in the services of a good security firm. Install mortise locks on doors, and burglar bars and meshes on windows.*

#### **Against crime**

*Install alarms that automatically alert the police and not the thief. Check existing ones work.*

*Make the staff security-minded through works magazines and special notices.*

### **CUSTODY OF MONEY**

Keep as little as possible on the premises. Put it in the bank.

Build in safes with brick or concrete walls and floors to prevent easy removal.

Check the quality of safes with local experts.

### **COLLECTION OF WAGE MONEY**

Send a party of three specially-chosen men. Never send a woman.

Vary time and route of collection. Protect your messengers.

Carry cash unobtrusively—not in an obvious cash bag.

Call in a good security firm's guards for escort.

Use firm's car for transport with suitable steel container in the boot.

Always choose a known taxi driver.

### **CLUB PAYMENTS**

*Tell the police when you are withdrawing large sums.*

*Don't keep the money at home overnight.*

*Select a suitable escort.*

*Check on your transport.*

### **CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS**

Leave your valuables in a safe place.

Use a handbag with a sound strap. Don't leave your personal documents in a coat pocket.

Report any suspicious action to the assistant—you will not be troubled in any way.

### **MOTORISTS**

*Park your car in authorized places.*

*Check the car and boot are locked. Immobilize before you leave.*

***Contact the fire and crime prevention sections of your fire brigade and police station, if you are in any doubt.  
Consult the advertisements of specialist security firms.***



# Fire Prevention a Prime Duty

## Risks of Great New Office Blocks

By J. Y. Kirkup

Chief Officer of Bristol Fire Brigade

“THERE is nothing to burn—we have been here 40 years and never had a fire yet,” is a familiar cry, but afterwards the other side of the record is played thus, “I never thought this could have happened—if only someone had told me”.

The occupier of premises involved in fire is naturally distressed; but there is another aspect which is not always realized. The fire could possibly have been prevented or, at the worst, the damage considerably reduced and the task of extinguishing made easier if advice had been sought. Such advice is available just for the asking from every local authority fire brigade, each of which maintains a branch staffed by officers specializing and well experienced in the field of fire prevention. It is given without charge or obligation and includes measures to protect life and property, to prevent fire and, if this fails, the provision of measures to enable fires to be extinguished with a minimum amount of damage to the contents and the least possible dislocation of business.

### Basic Measures

It is an inescapable fact that basic fire prevention not only protects life and property but also considerably assists fire brigades in the extinguishing of fires. The main principles can be given quite simply. Whether or not a building is used as a factory or an office, there should be available on all upper floors two escape routes and, in giving consideration to this provision, it should be borne in mind that the actual danger is smoke rather than flame, for this will prevent persons making their way out of a building and cause panic even to the extent of forcing employees to jump from windows. On this account two staircases are not sufficient unless there is separation between each, so that both will not be affected by smoke at the same time. Effective “smoke stopping” at each floor level on both staircases should also be employed. By this means there will not only be provided safe egress for the occupiers but, in reverse, the escape route will provide ingress for firemen and will materially assist in the early discovery of the seat of the fire, with the possibility of its being extinguished without the use of major equipment.

### Big Office Buildings

Whilst under the Factories Act means of escape can be required in factories, office premises are not controlled except in a very few cases where local bye-laws exist. In view of the present-day tendency to erect office blocks of five, six or more storeys, where there will also be a preponderance of female staff, there can be no doubt that some measure of control is desirable to minimize the threat to life. It remains

a sad fact, however, that development of office property is being allowed without taking this risk into account and a very difficult structural problem will be created if in a more enlightened age a means of escape has to be provided.

### After Closing

Perhaps linked with this question of escape is the provision of a warning system which is again required by law in factories but not in office properties. In the installation of a system to alert the occupants in event of fire, it is a distinct advantage for this to be extended to allow automatic operation during the danger period when the premises are closed. It is during this period that a fire is most likely to develop unnoticed and, therefore, reach dangerous proportions, necessitating a major effort on the part of the fire brigade to quell the outbreak. If, therefore, an alarm should be installed, it should be of the electric type with manually-operated switches to enable an instant warning to be given for the evacuation of the premises if the fire should occur by day. At the same time, heat detectors should be incorporated so that an automatic alarm may be given if the fire should start when the building is unoccupied. With automatic detection, it is a common feature to provide a relay so that warning is immediately given to fire brigade stations; in this way it serves a dual purpose in that, as the fire is tackled in its incipient stage,

*This blaze at Shipley some months ago destroyed one of the most prominent blocks of shops in the town in half an hour.*



*Security Gazette*



it can be extinguished with a minimum of effort and damage to the building.

### Structural Problems

The development of fire is largely determined by the structure of the building and rapid spread is often caused through the use of highly combustible materials or those possessing a surface conducive to rapid spread of flame or by the presence of large undivided workshop areas. It is not intended, however, to discuss the use of bituminous roof coverings which has been given sufficient prominence following a number of disastrous fires involving this material. It is perhaps remarkable in considering this aspect that little publicity has been given to the use, for the purpose of thermal insulation, in quite a number of single-storeyed premises, of combustible building boards to underline a roof which in itself may be of incombustible construction.

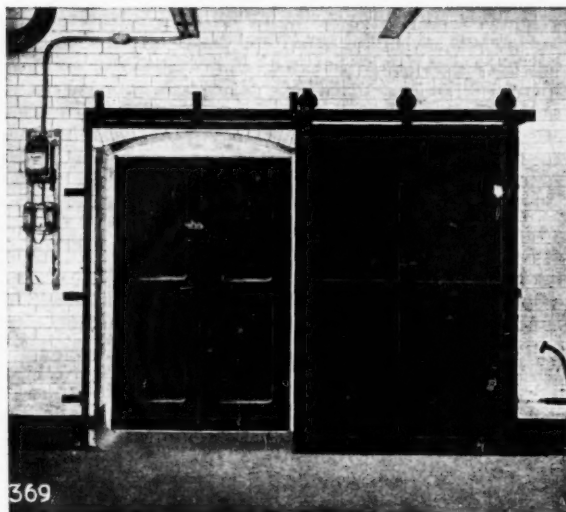
The problem of thermal insulation also arises in so far as the partitions of a building are concerned; and again in this direction there is a common use of combustible building boards. The majority of these will readily burn and also possess what is known as a surface of rapid flame spread. The provisions of the Regulations made under the Thermal Insulation Act go part of the way to meet this problem but these do not completely eliminate the serious hazard presented by the phenomenon known as a "flash over", which would cause serious damage and possible destruction of the building and certainly tax the resources of any brigade in dealing with the resultant outbreak of fire.

It is difficult to understand why many excellent proprietary brands of building board which are now on the market, are non-combustible and have good thermal insulation properties, should not be used, or failing the use of these boards, if there should be timber partitions already erected, why these cannot be treated with a fire-retardant paint, thus imparting a reasonable degree of fire resistance.

### Fire-Resisting Materials

In considering the possible spread of fire, apart from the use of suitable building materials, it is well to bear in mind that, while a modern building may be fire-resisting, the contents may be highly combustible and fire can, therefore, spread from the point of origin, even in a modern factory, unless the necessary precautions are taken. This may involve the division of the building into fire-resisting compartments, with access by means of fire-resisting doors which, incidentally, will also provide a safe and suitable point from which firemen can operate.

With regard to the provision of fire-resisting doors, it is a common fallacy that  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch steel plate will afford the necessary protection. This is far from being the case, as steel will buckle under heat and provide an opening through which fire may pass. Fire doors should be of the factory type, specially manufactured for the purpose and usually constructed of two timber faces protected by thin sheet metal on the outside



*Fire-proof doors can be automatically closed.*

with a space between the two faces filled in with powdered asbestos. Alternatively, a door of hardwood 2 inches in thickness will give the necessary degree of resistance to fire.

### Asbestos Curtains

In large workshops where a continuous process is involved, it is, of course, impossible to provide compartmentation by the erection of walls. There is, however, now available a method of securing protection for large workshop spaces by rolled asbestos curtains held in the "up" position by means of fusible links which, in the event of fire, will fracture and cause the curtains to drop. In conjunction with the curtains, ventilators are provided in the roof which, again operated by fusible links, will open in the event of a sudden rise in temperature. This has the effect of drawing the fire upwards and so tends to prevent a horizontal spread to the rest of the workshop. An attack on a fire controlled by this method will be comparatively easy, as heat and smoke, the firefighter's greatest obstacle, will be reduced to a minimum in the unaffected sections of the workshop.

### Sprinkler Systems

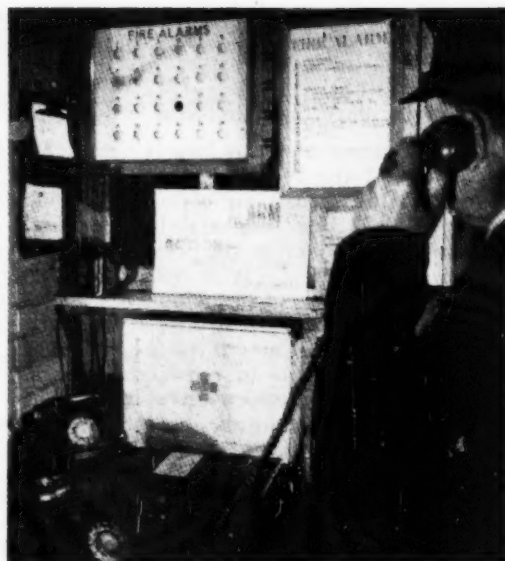
The final principal point is the protection of property by the provision of adequate fire equipment. In premises with a high fire risk consideration should be given to the installation of sprinkler systems which consist of a series of water pipes covering the entire property with discharge points, each covering at least 100 square feet of floor area. Any abnormal rise in temperature will cause an automatic local discharge of water on to the fire so providing protection even if the premises are unoccupied. Provision is also made in a sprinkler system for a bell to sound outside the premises, giving an automatic audible warning; and it

is possible for a link to be established to the nearest fire station, ensuring an immediate response to the outbreak. Apart from major installations such as sprinklers or automatic fire alarms, it is most desirable that in all premises hose reels should be provided and connected to the main water supply, enabling any member of the staff, male or female, to attempt extinction and so hold the fire in check until the arrival of the brigade. Although it may be necessary to protect special risks such as the storage of oils or electric machinery with special extinguishers, it is not necessary to supplement hose reels with fire extinguishers which require regular maintenance and for their operation involve special training for employees.

### Managements Can Co-operate

The problem of fire with its dangers to life and property, can never be resolved by a local authority fire brigade unless managements, as the other interested party, also play their part and, while there is an obligation for fire brigades always to be aware of the risks in their particular areas, this cannot be accomplished without full co-operation on the part of the occupiers of premises. It is strongly urged, therefore, that in all types of industrial, commercial and other property, those responsible should liaise with the Chief Fire Officer of their Brigade in the following manner:

1. Request for a survey by a Fire Prevention Officer. A confidential report on all aspects of fire safety will subsequently be received by the management.
2. Arrange for personnel from local fire stations to visit the premises. Vital information on the layout and special risks will thus be obtained, which would prove invaluable should fire occur whilst the premises are unoccupied.
3. Notification to the brigade of any particularly dangerous contents, e.g., radioactive materials, compressed gas cylinders, nitrate baths, highly inflammable liquids, etc.



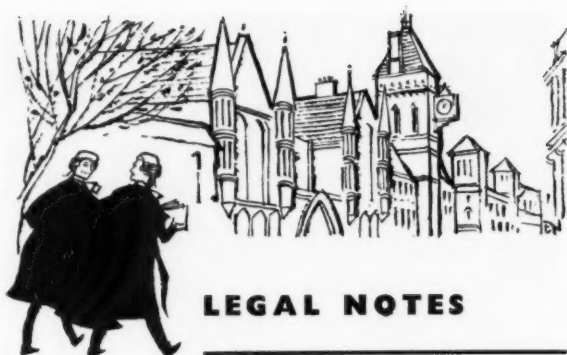
*Above: a fire indicator board connected to automatic detectors alerts the works industrial policeman and shows him accurately the source of danger, thus giving opportunity for the fire to be tackled at an early stage.*

*Below: a fine example of sprinkler apparatus installed in Howland House in London.*

### £29 Million Can Be Saved

Additionally, steps can be taken to make the fire-fighter's task less difficult by such simple measures as maintaining clear gangways, segregation of combustible stocks, limiting height and depth of stacked goods and provision of adequate water supplies, particularly important in rural areas where mains supplies are restricted. Main electrical switches and gas valves should be marked and, where possible, turned off at night. Drains should be kept clear in basements and positions of drain covers indicated so that removal of surplus water may be carried out efficiently. Names and addresses of key-holders should be displayed outside the building or, alternatively, be notified to fire brigade headquarters. Space will not permit the inclusion of the many measures that can be taken but common sense will make most of them apparent.

The annual fire loss in Britain is £29,000,000 which is only the direct loss covering buildings and contents and does not take into account the consequential loss of production and orders. There are also the numerous personal tragedies caused by unemployment through the destruction of places of work. Remember, therefore, "A little fire is quickly trodden out, which being suffer'd rivers cannot quench" (*Shakespeare—Henry VI.*). This is as true today as it was when written.



## LEGAL NOTES

# POWERS OF PRIVATE POLICE

By G. R. Paling, C.B., C.B.E.

*Former Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions*

**P**PRIVATE Police, Industrial Security Guards, Works' Security Officials, call them what you will, are in the main bodies of men formed and organized by owners of property for the purpose of protecting their property.

Of course they perform many other important functions, but it would appear that the first private police force to be formed in this country was in 1792 when the owners of warehouses and property on the banks of the Thames instituted police patrols on the river. The losses through theft had amounted to such alarming proportions that the formation of the patrols was a logical result.

### Forerunners of Metropolitan Force

The success of these patrols was astounding and in 1798 it was decided to form a permanent police force. The Marine Police Office at New Stairs, Wapping, was opened and a force consisting of a head constable and 50 constables was formed. Thus the Thames Police came into being and it is the oldest professional body of law enforcement officers in the country.

Captain John Harriott was appointed Head Constable and so organized and led his force that it was a great success. It continued to be a success and was eventually taken over by the Metropolitan Police.

Before discussing the duties and powers of private police let us look at police in general.

The police have three main duties:

1. The prevention of crime;
2. The investigation of crime;
3. The detection of offenders.

The use of the word "crime" in this connection, of course, includes offences of all descriptions.

### Few Special Powers

The powers of the police are very few. In fact a constable has few powers not enjoyed by ordinary citizens and his authority rests on the broad basis of

the consent and active co-operation of all law-abiding persons. A constable has been defined as "a person paid to perform, as a matter of duty, acts which if he were so minded, he might have done voluntarily". There are, of course, certain duties of a special nature which if entrusted to a constable and adequately performed by him require the grant of special powers and these are given to him by statute.

The police depend for their success on the goodwill of the general public and it is most important that the utmost discretion be exercised by them to avoid overstepping the limited powers they possess.

Proper and mutual understanding between the police and the public is essential for the maintenance of law and order.

I think that it is not clearly understood that the ordinary police have no rights on private property save when they are called in or unless they actually see an offence taking place.

It is primarily for this reason that large concerns have in the past desired to have their own police force whose duty it is to prevent and detect crime committed on the private property owned by them.

### Watch on Goods in Transit

When the canals were built in this country and canal owners began to be carriers of goods, they found that pilfering of those goods soon amounted to a considerable sum and the canal owners were liable in law for those losses, consequently they wanted to have their own police force for the purpose of protecting not only their own property but also the goods of others that they carried. The discovery that goods had been lost in transit was generally not made until the goods had, or had not, as the case may be, reached their destination and by that time not only had the goods passed through the jurisdiction of many police forces, but the hope of discovery of the thieves or the recovery of the goods had practically vanished. Therefore the canal owners had a very good case for the establishment of a police force that could keep watch on their goods in transit and protect their property from damage and the power to raise and maintain such a force was given to them by the Canal (Offences) Act, 1840. Similarly the railway companies desired to have their own police forces and powers to form railway police were given to the railway companies by the various Acts of Parliament that the companies promoted.

### Efficient Railway Police

The railways having now been nationalized, the various railway police forces have been welded into one force—the British Transport Commission Police—commonly called the railway police. It is an extremely efficient and well-run force and has for years maintained a very close and good co-operation with the regular police. There are a number of other well-known police forces that come within this category, such as the Port of London Authority Police, the forces maintained by the Service Departments as well as the Ministry of Civil Aviation Police.

Incidentally, some markets, such as those in the City of London, have the right to maintain a market police though their duties are mainly to deal with the enforcement of the market bye-laws. It is said that the Greeks and Romans in ancient times had market



police, but these were skilled archers whose duty it was to "wing" snatch and grab thieves and so retrieve stolen property.

### The Right to Private Police

When it was decided to form a regular police force it was clearly recognized that it was necessary for owners of private property to have, in certain cases, the right to maintain on their premises a private police force. Many records have been lost and it is now impossible to say how many private police forces were then in existence though, as mentioned above, the River Thames Police were functioning in an extremely able manner.

By Section 8 of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, and Section 19 of the County Police Act, 1840, power was given to appoint and cause to be sworn in private constables to serve at a particular place. A similar power in municipal boroughs is given by Section 191(1) of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882. Therefore at the present time Chief Constables and in boroughs Watch Committees have the power to appoint constables on the application and at the expense of any person who can show the necessity for them.

Many owners of property do not think it necessary, or indeed advisable, that their Works Police should be sworn in as constables, but that depends on local conditions. However, whether or not they are sworn in, it is most advisable that they should know the limits of their powers and take the greatest care that they do not exceed them, for an efficient security force must lead to better labour relations.

### Relations with Regular Force

It is obvious that it is most important that a private police force should have a good understanding with the local regular police. They should be prepared to place at the disposal of the regular police all the information they have, subject, of course, to the rights of their employer, and expect nothing in return. When they want the assistance of the local regular police it will be forthcoming.

*Top right: a British Transport policeman checking goods in transit.*

*Below: Thames Police with their craft at Waterloo Bridge.*



The task of a private police force is no easy one, but a well-recruited, well-run and efficient force, every man of which knows his duties, can be of very great benefit to an industrial concern.

### FLICK KNIVES

#### Appeal to The Home Secretary

THE Police Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations which represents the town and city councils of England and Wales, have decided to appeal to the Home Secretary to ban the sale of flick knives.

They point out that in New York it is a criminal offence for anyone to "offer, sell, loan or give" a knife which opens automatically by a button or a spring in the handle, and they will suggest to Mr. Butler that legislation on similar lines to New York's Penal Law would go a long way to meet this problem.

"While it would still be possible for other weapons, equally offensive, to be obtained," the committee declare, "in our opinion the proposed prohibition would be justified because of the aptness of flick knives for criminal use."

Earlier moves to get the flick knife banned have failed as the Government have taken the view that it will be impracticable to devise a law which could distinguish dangerous knives from "legitimate" ones.

### M.P.'s. FLAT BURGLED

#### £3,000 Haul

THIEVES broke into the home of Sir Leslie Plummer, Socialist M.P. for Deptford, at Elsworthy Court, Elsworthy Road, Hampstead, on the night of 3rd December, and stole property worth about £3,000. They forced a service hatch in his fourth-floor flat with a jemmy. The flat was unoccupied.

Sir Leslie said: "They did a complete job, took my wife's furs—a mink cape and a sable stole—her jewellery, two wireless sets and some clocks—anything they could lay their hands on."

*Security Gazette*

# PRIVATE SECURITY REVIEWED

## Advice to Banks and Insurance Companies

### SIR PHILIP MARGETSON'S ADDRESS

**A** POSITIVE suggestion whereby banks can increase their security was put forward by Sir Philip Margetson to members of the Burglary Insurance Surveyors' Association at their December meeting. He declared that they could take action against thieves by co-operating in setting up patrols.

In any particular area there is usually one branch of each of the Big Five banks. One branch alone could not afford to keep a watchman on its small premises. But why was it not possible to arrange a joint patrol, he asked, which could cover the five banks at night and week-ends? Breaking-in takes time and the thieves were almost certain to be disturbed by such a variable patrol. Yet, he continued, the banks would not look at the plan.

#### Low Premiums

A second point made by Sir Philip, who was formerly Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard and is now a director of Securicor Ltd., was the very low premium charged by the insurance companies which he thought was a factor in the banks' attitude to security. He could not understand why the rate was only two shillings per £1,000 on cash in transit.

He believed the insurance companies ought to encourage firms which are trying to improve their security arrangements. That would be a "tremendously welcome step".

#### Survey of Crime

Sir Philip was addressing members on "The Growth of Crime and the Need for Protection." Mr. R. D. Godfrey, managing director of Securicor, was in the chair.

The talk proved to be a penetrating survey of the many causes, historical and contemporary, of the

December 1958

crime situation now facing the country, which at the same time put into perspective the difficulties confronting the police and indicated realistically how the official security forces could be assisted by private initiative.

The first instruction book written when the Metropolitan Police was formed in 1829 stated that "the prime duty of the police is the protection of life and property and the prevention of crime". This principle led to the two chief departments of the Metropolitan Police: the uniformed officers whose aim was prevention and the C.I.D. which was concerned with detection when crime was committed. The great problem of house- and shop-breaking was, however, of comparatively recent growth, arising from the heavy increase in the size of the criminal classes. In 1927 there were 3,101 cases of breaking in the M.P.'s area. By 1933 they had reached 15,000, though one reason was simply that it was not until then that, under the late Lord Trenchard's direction, a proper record book was kept of crime incidents.

After a natural decrease during the last war, 1945 was the worst year so far recorded (there were indications that 1958 might yet beat it) with a jump to 23,000. In 1957 there were 20,285, divided into house-breakings, 7,837, and shop-breakings, 10,758. Yet only one-third of the criminals were arrested.

#### Car Police Criticised

What had contributed to these rises? Apart from the more even distribution of wealth and the increase in population, one main cause was the change in living environment—the trend to living in flats and the absence of staff. Modern domiciles without mortice locks could be easily broken into and they were often left unoccu-

pied at week-ends. Another cause was the facility of transport—the presence of a tube leads to an incidence of crime in certain areas. The general deterioration of moral standards after two world wars was also a major influence.

But Sir Philip laid emphasis on the value of the policeman walking his beat. He was the best precaution. He had knowledge of the locality and the criminals in it. He could approach the scene without making a noise. In contrast the motor police, tucked up in their cars, had to give their attention to the road and could not actually check premises. Because the criminals were not known nowadays as they were previously he did not consider augmentation of the police would make much difference.

#### H.P. a Menace

Turning to social factors, Sir Philip pointed out that in 1957 over 60 per cent of those arrested were aged 8-21. The reason lay in a general lack of discipline, and in the lack of the old religious background with its simple order, 'Thou shalt not steal'. He did not think TV had much influence—but hire purchase, in making so many goods available, certainly affected the rise. "I think it is a menace," he said.

#### Methods of Defence

Sir Philip then considered ways in which the crime situation could be controlled. Advisory campaigns directed to householders undoubtedly were of basic importance. They could persuade people to take simple precautions such as properly protecting the house itself. "So often it is the easiest thing in the world to break in," he said.

Industry generally could go far to ensure its own security. Why did it not do so? Partly, he thought, because of insurance, partly be-

(Continued overleaf)



cause of an implicit trust in the police, partly because security was not shown in the balance sheet.

#### Advice to Firms

He gave this advice to firms and companies:

1. *Find a good security officer.* His status must be good enough to enable him to go to the boss. He should not be of the old gentleman type employed as a watchman. The good man can take action. When, for instance, fire breaks out and the sprinklers operate, he can act immediately, thus reducing damage and often the fire itself.

2. If the employment of security staff raises problems of recruiting and pay, the firm can turn to an

*acknowledged and reliable security company which, like his own company, also offers an advisory and internal security service and guarantees its offer by carefully vetting its staff.*

3. *Architects should be made security-minded.*

4. *Factories should be patrolled at least once every night.*

5. *Always give a good escort to the transport of cash.*

#### Sympathy for Police

It was clear from the ensuing discussion, under Mr. Godfrey's lead, that Sir Philip's address had struck home to his insurance audience. He defended the police against any feeling they could do

more. "They have," he said, "so many other duties now that the number available at any one time to prevent crime is very, very small." He agreed that the courts might help: "sentences are too light". But the responsibility to strengthen security he placed directly with the commercial and industrial circles affected, including the banking and insurance world. There was a common opinion in the audience that many insurance companies do attempt to encourage security. But it was agreed, after the chairman had pressed his inquiry about the duty of burglary insurance surveyors, that they were brought in to inspect premises only after buildings had been constructed.

## TO CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

### THE YARD'S ADVICE

SCOTLAND Yard, announcing in good time its plans to cope with the big Christmas rush in London's West End, warned shoppers to take care of their purchases. "Don't make your unattended car a sitting target for the thief by leaving parcels and goods exposed to view" the Yard appealed. "Lock them in the boot." This was a warning which motorists particularly appreciated, for property worth £60,000 was reported stolen from vehicles in London last December.

Shoppers were urged to use pedestrian crossings and to park their cars in authorized parks or garages if they had to use them. At the same time, people were asked not to take their cars into central London on shopping expeditions.

"Remember," said the Yard, "that with more cars on the roads both crime and accident figures will rise unless common-sense precautions are taken by both motorists and pedestrians."

Extra police were on duty not only in the West End but in the busy shopping centres in Outer London. Wireless vans linked motor cycle patrols with a control headquarters at West End Central police station.

### STRAIGHT TALK TO POLICE

MR. JOSEPH SIMPSON, the recently appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner, issued a special memorandum to all London police stations early in December telling his 16,500 policemen to be more courteous. He bluntly said that there had been too many complaints from the public about incivility, especially to road users. He also told C.I.D. men that there was often a wide gap in time between the reporting of a crime and the arrival of detectives.

## FABULOUS DIAMOND SHOW

### Security Steps in London

THE Queen is lending some of her finest personal jewellery to "The Ageless Diamond" exhibition at Christie's, opening on 9th January. Diamonds worth millions, the most valuable collection ever seen under one roof, will be on view. They will include the magnificent jewels worn by the Queen for State and other occasions, as well as famous diamonds sent by private owners from many parts of the world.

Sir Reginald Leeper, London chief of De Beers, who are sponsoring the exhibition, states that the firm is paying the whole cost of mounting the three-week show and its insurance cover, and is arranging for the extraordinary security arrangements which have been devised.

Proceeds will go to the Children's Country Holidays Fund by the express wish of the Queen, and to the National Playing Fields Association.

## STUDY OF CRIMINOLOGY

### Oxford's Readership

A PLEA for the retention of the Oxford Readership in Criminology is being made by a group of senior members of the University, who claim that the Readership should not be discarded in the economy drive on "fringe" activity. The suggestion had been made that the Readership should be wound up when Dr. Max Grünhut, the present reader, retired on reaching the age limit in 1960.

The *Oxford Magazine* declared in a leading article that criminology, far from being a "fringe" activity, has "sufficient claim to be treated as an applied science and has affinities with medicine, law, and sociology".

The senior members maintain that Dr. Grünhut has established an international reputation for Oxford in the field of criminology and that that reputation should be safeguarded by renewing the Readership.

# THE PATTERN OF CRIME

THE police records of the country in recent weeks reveal little that is new in criminal "techniques" but, at the same time, no diminution of the crime wave or the determination with which gang raids are organised and carried out. Gelignite experts have widened the scope of their activities. Snatch and grab thieves have not always been successful but their gains have been sufficient to stress the necessity for a reorganisation and, in many cases, supervision of "established" pay-day routines among firms of all sizes.

## £33,000 IN LORRY RAIDS

Cigarettes valued at between £20,000 and £25,000 were being taken in a railway lorry from Fulham to the Bricklayers Arms Goods Depot. At Kirtling Street, Battersea, the driver and his mate went into a café for a cup of tea. When they returned the lorry had gone.

In another lorry raid £13,000 worth of whisky was stolen. The driver, William Charles Bartley, of Reedworth Street, Lambeth, told the police he was driving from London Docks to Chelsea. In Millbank a man stopped him and asked for a spanner. Then, he said, he was attacked by a gang, bundled into a van, and driven round before being dumped at Clapham Common. The lorry was found—less its 1,000 gallons of whisky—at Bexley, Kent.

## Driver Kidnapped

In still another road raid near Towcester on 9th December, a lorry containing 200,000 cigarettes valued at £20,000 was stolen and the driver kidnapped. Four men in Balaclava helmets were concerned. One drove off with the load in the lorry while the others bundled the driver into a car, drove him more than 60 miles, then dumped him in a North London street. The British Road Services lorry was carrying the cigarettes from a factory near Manchester to wholesalers in the Home Counties. It was pulled up at 4 a.m. when the driver saw a small cream car drawn across the road ahead of him.

## TV Sets taken

A van carrying £10,000 worth of television sets from the Cossor Group for distribution by retailers in Sheffield, was stolen at Newark and found empty at Sandy, Beds,

early on the morning of 1st December. Four men were seen to leave the van and drive towards London in a car.

## Booking Office Wrecked

Gelignite raiders wrecked the booking office of Wandsworth Town railway station when they blew open the safe early on the morning of 1st December. The explosion blew in windows in the booking hall, flung ticket racks from the walls and destroyed or damaged hundreds of tickets. Walls and counters were also damaged. The booking office closed at 12.30 a.m. and the booking hall clock had stopped at 3.30—an hour before the station staff was due on duty. Total haul of the raiders was £10.

## Post Office Safes Blasted

Gelignite raiders made an unsuccessful attempt to blast open a safe in a sub-post office at Kingston Road, Ewell, on Monday, 24th November. The noise of the explosion awoke neighbours, and one of them dialled 999. A police radio car was only 300 yards away, and the smell of burned explosive still filled the post office when the police entered.

A gelignite gang who raided Baldock, Herts, post office during the same week-end blew open one safe and damaged another. From the wrecked safe the raiders stole one registered letter, destroying several others.

## Fire caused by Gang

A safe gang caused a fire at the Maxi Engineering Company in Plumstead High Street when they tried to burn open a safe in a downstairs store-room with oxy-acetylene equipment. They ran away with only £3 which they took from an upper-floor office.

## BOGUS POLICEMEN FOILED

### G.P.O. Men's Bravery

TWO bogus policemen attacked the driver and guard of a mail van in Leeds late on the night of 3rd December, and tried to steal registered mail worth thousands of pounds.

The attack was foiled after the crew fought desperately to protect their mail. The driver of the van, Mr. John Hawley, 27, of Watson Road, Leeds, had to be taken to Leeds Infirmary with head injuries and the guard, Mr. Michael Farley, was bruised.

The G.P.O. men told police that they were attacked with coshes by two men dressed in police uniform, as they were unloading the mail at Leeds Central Station. Later a Liverpool City police helmet was found by detectives near the scene of the raid.

After the struggle, the raiders fled and jumped into a waiting grey saloon car. Police believe the gang, which comprised four men in all, may have driven during the night to London.

As the attack began, Mr. Hawley reversed his vehicle into a wall—so that the doors could not be opened.

## Garage Attack

Three young men overpowered the attendant at a garage at the junction of the Glasgow to Balloch and Glasgow to Dumbarton roads and stole about £20 on 21st November. The car which the men had been driving was found abandoned on the boulevard road above Bowling.

The attendant at the station, John Lindsay (18), of Dumbarton, was alone when the attack took place about 10 p.m. One held him while the other two men took the money from the cash register.

### CASH FROM GIRL CLERKS

A masked man snatched a bag containing £250 and nearly £4,000 worth of cheques from two 16-year-old girl clerks in a Ramsgate street on 28th November.

The girls were pay clerks employed by Oldby Ltd., builders' merchants, of King Street, Ramsgate, and they had gone to the National Provincial Bank to draw money for wages.

As the swing doors of the bank opened, he pounced on the money, which was carried in a satchel. The man raced off through the crowded street.

Neither girl was injured.

### Manageress Coshed

Returning from the bank with wages amounting to £536 in a canvas bag, Miss Zeta Jones, office manageress to a shoe firm, England's Limited, of Bradford Street, Birmingham, was coshed by two youths on the stairs leading to her office. One of the youths struck her on the head with a piece of lead pipe wrapped round with rubber. They snatched the wages bag and fled into the street, leaving the weapon behind. Employees of the firm, attracted by Miss Jones's screams, chased the youths down the street. Miss Jones, who suffered head injuries, was taken to hospital, but later discharged.

### Woman Attacked

An elderly woman cashier, Miss M. Hargreaves, carrying a brief case containing over £600, was knocked down in the street near the Cross Street branch of the Midland Bank in Manchester. The bag was snatched and her assailant got away in the crowd. Miss Hargreaves, who is employed by P.V.C. Products, wholesale plastics merchants of Blackfriars Street, Salford, suffered shock but was uninjured.

### Loan Club £3,000 Snatched

Returning from the bank with £3,000 for the Christmas payout of a loan club on Saturday, 29th November, Mr. William Webster, licensee of the Black Horse public house in Royal College Street, Camden Town, had just reached the doorway accompanied by two

of the loan club officials, when a man attacked him with a cosh, snatched the leather case in which was the money, and got away in a car which was waiting at the kerbside. One of the club officials who boarded the car was flung off as it drove away. A passing motorist who gave chase lost the bandit car in the traffic in Camden Road. Mr. Webster was taken to hospital. The brewers who own the public house undertook to make good the loss and the payout to about 120 members was postponed.

### Safe Carried Away

Four men broke into the Maidenhead factory of St. Martins Preserving Co. Ltd., in the early hours of 28th November, bound and gagged the watchman, James Wallace, and took away two safes containing about £200. Later a motor van was chased by the police at Hatfield. Two men abandoned the vehicle and escaped. One safe was found intact.

### Fashion Thieves

Thieves broke into the factory of S. Travers Ltd., Pratt Street, Camden Town, in the early morning and stole 200 women's suits and coats worth about £2,000. They climbed the fire escape, jumped from the escape hand-rail on to a fourth-floor window-ledge; picked the most expensive wool coats and suits; and threw the clothing from a window to a lorry below.

### £6,000 Jewels in Bedroom Raid

Jewels valued at £6,000 and including a diamond wrist watch, an onyx and diamond clip and bracelet and a pearl and diamond bracelet were stolen from the dressing case of Mrs. Walter C. Warwick, wife of the chairman of the Royal Mail Pacific Steam Navigation and other shipping companies, at the Hyde Park Hotel. Entrance to their room had been gained by means of a duplicate key during their absence at the theatre on the night of 28th November.

### MONEY IN POUCH

Mr. William Fletcher, aged 40, manager of the Home Counties Dairies at Chase Side, Enfield, Middlesex, was attacked by three men and robbed of £740 as he was about to lock up on the night of Saturday, 22nd November. His hands were tied with wire, and the men took a pouch containing the money from his pocket.

### Manager foils raiders

Armed with a knife and knuckle-duster, a man attacked and seriously injured Mr. Trevor Evans, 51-year-old manager of the London Co-operative Society Dairy, at Gloucester Road, Acton, on 29th November. Mr. Evans fought the raider with a broomstick and although bleeding from numerous wounds, prevented anything being stolen from his office safe. He was taken to hospital.

### Post Office Coup

Four men attacked and robbed sub-postmaster, Mr. Jack Sanders, of £200 at his Evering Road, Stoke Newington, shop on 21st November. The men sprang on Mr. Sanders in the shop and beat him to the ground, then took the office keys from him to open the safe. Mr. Sanders staggered, bleeding from a head wound, to Rectory Road railway station to summon help.

### House Raid

Nelson relics and jewellery and antiques valued at £2,000 were stolen from the Buckinghamshire home at Swanbourne of Lord Cottesloe, a trustee of the Tate Gallery. Raiders ripped off the back of the safe and took 13 snuff boxes, silver boxes and antique rings.

### "FOLLY"

Who is the latest tough, well-guarded victim of a wages snatch? A 16-year-old girl. She was carrying £4,250 to a Ramsgate bank.

Within a month there have been wage-snatches from a lad of 17; a cripple; a man of 69. Everyone knows that the wage-snatch is a weekly event. And to give the task of carrying money to a lone teenager or a decrepit oldster is utter folly.

—The Star (Editorial).

Security Gazette



# CARELESS PARKING AIDS THE BANDIT

## Advice to Security Officers

By ARTHUR TIETJEN

Of the "Daily Mail"—one of London's best known  
Crime Investigators



*Summer afternoon parking in Berkeley Square.*

**S**ECURITY should begin on the streets. This is where the large and small industrial concerns with their security officers can play their part in getting at the root of crime and reduce its growth.

The wave of violence, smash and grab raids, and week-end pay robberies is still on the increase. A careful study of those crimes would reveal that in practically every case the bandits used a car. The report of the incident usually adds that the car was later found abandoned.

Two important things have occurred in the past few months which contribute to a further rise in crime figures. One is the announcement that public transport is cutting its services owing to the lack of

public support. The other is the reduction in the down payment for a hire-purchase car. Both will mean that more and more people will use cars to drive to their places of employment.

### POTENTIAL WEAPONS

Every car so used is a potential weapon for the bandit. It may be left on a car park for hours, sometimes locked and sometimes unlocked.

Motorists, like many householders fully insured against theft and burglary, adopt an "I don't care" attitude and say "It doesn't matter, I'm fully insured".

Those people have to be rocked out of that apathetic state of mind and taught to play their part in denying the criminal his opportunity. That is crime prevention and security combined.

Annually, thousands of cars are stolen off the streets. Security officers in businesses both large and small can bring home to the employees the danger of the parked car. It is easy meat to the criminal. An employee's car might even be used by bandits to steal his employer's money—a sorry state of affairs indeed—but it could happen. Nothing is strange in crime.

### WARN THE WORKERS

Most large concerns have their offices, factories and canteens linked by an internal broadcast system. Twice a week—or daily for that matter—let the security officer ram home to the thousands of workers the need for care in parking their cars. The policemen cannot do everything, and somehow the public must be schooled to help themselves in the battle against crime.

For five minutes a day the security officer might ask those pertinent questions, "Where have you left your car? Did you immobilize it against theft?". He can then give a short talk on the citizens' duty to combat this growing menace.

The public shudders at the upsurge of crime figures, and displays an immense interest in the subject. Crime has a fascination for the looker-on—as can be instanced by television and the sales of crime novels.

The Chief Constables' Association, which favours the formation of special detachments of officers on crime prevention, might well consider the advisability of lending their lecturers to business concerns to make such broadcast talks.

At the moment, the City of London Police and other forces send circulars and make personal contacts with managements to warn them against different types of criminals, from the walk-in petty thief to the more dangerous factory-breaker and hold-up man.

Security officers throughout the country might well adopt the methods of the police crime-prevention officer in arranging such broadcast talks, or bring in the officer to talk direct to "The Man in the Street". For it is his car—and his carelessness—that so often starts the bandit off on a successful crime coup.

# The Psychology of Shop-lifting

## Work of the Store Detective

By DOROTHY PEIRCE

Head of Detective Service in a London Stores Group



CONSIDERING the thousands of daily shoppers in the country's great departmental stores and the ever-increasing range of goods skilfully displayed to attract the eye, the number of thieves—caught or uncaught—may not seem to be really large. In my experience the thing that impresses me is the fundamental honesty of most ordinary people—I could say “there is a tremendous amount of honesty about” just as easily as statistics show that not a day goes by without someone being caught in the act of thieving. But in fact shop-lifting is not only a perpetual worry to store managements, it is also a major cause of financial loss. My own group of stores estimates £138,000 was lost last year through shop-lifting and staff dishonesty; and it would be far higher but for the existence of the detective section. Over the range of the nation's stores, this figure could run into millions of pounds. The number of shop lifting cases this year has increased to 600 against 500 in 1957. To this wastage must be added the expense of maintaining store detective and security forces. In short, every large store has long recognized that efficient detective work on the shop floor is an essential part of its routine commercial activity.

### The Impulse to Steal

What causes people—the plain and the pretty, the housewife and career type, the wealthy and the merely well-shod—to commit this crime? The first theft, which is the important one, in many cases is a matter of sudden impulse. The temptation to own a desirable article surges up—and the theft is made. Often there is a medical or mental history which predisposes the person to find resistance to thieving difficult. Often it is a matter of sheer upbringing—which applies not only to the many juveniles who come before us. Again, all too many women—or men—think that detection will never come their way. They are like the motorist who continues to drive badly merely because he has never had a crash. That applies particularly to the habitual thief. It

becomes almost a habit for this type to pick up the odd article here and there in the comforting knowledge that previous thefts have not been noticed.

### For and Against Prosecution

Nevertheless, whatever the class or type of person, in my opinion it is the duty of the store management as a general principle always to consider prosecution when a serious *prima facie* case has been made out. Many do not. They prefer to take the easy way, and merely to warn. Of course a prosecution will be costly. Of course a warning may be sufficient to stop the individual in question from repeating the crime. The stores for whom I work themselves do not always prosecute. But it must be realized that prosecution is a warning and a deterrent to hundreds more who read about the case. This is not a question of being vindictive. On the contrary, the good detective is usually a kind and understanding person—a natural psychologist who can apprehend a thief because he has a “bigger” character, and can deal with her in an almost sympathetic way. Equally the management has to remember its store's reputation and good name. The aim here is to support and strengthen prevention by showing that managements are really security-minded and will not tolerate crime, however petty it may appear. The public has to be educated and led. In each case the responsibility for deciding whether to prosecute or not must always lie with the management—the detective's duty is done when the culprit has been caught and reported.

It is then up to the management to assess the case and its circumstances, to ask for an explanation, and to seek from the individual some idea of her motive, bearing in mind continually that the decision may determine the shopper's future code of personal conduct. However, the store's detectives cannot be ignored. They fight an uphill battle and court action has to be recognized as being a positive method of defending the store's interests.

Shop-lifting is therefore no simple crime, easily disposed of. So much is at stake that both managements and security officers have to tread warily. They must be shrewd judges, able to judge issues quickly. Yet experience has shown that an apparent sternness pays in the long run.

### Importance of Character

Such conditions indicate the need for every large store to possess an efficient corps of detectives. The firms to which I am responsible employ more than 40—the largest section, I believe, in the country.



They work alongside the other internal security section (which employs ex-C.I.D. officers) but specialize in supervising the shop floors. What qualities must they have? Above all else I would place integrity. That is the sterling quality. It comes even before intelligence and we insist on it one hundred per cent. When staff have integrity, they can be relied upon up to the hilt. Their word is all-important and when they report they must be believed. They represent the firm at very tricky and delicate moments and their evidence and bearing may be crucial in the courts. When integrity is allied to intelligence, mistakes are unlikely to happen—and no one needs to be told how vital that side is!

#### **Small But Good**

Secondly, they must be physically and mentally strong. Most of our detectives, naturally, are women. The best are often small in build—they mix easily and unobtrusively. But their work is arduous in the extreme. All day long they have to be on their toes, moving about and constantly inspecting. The public could not care what happens to other people's property. The store must. Somehow a detective never quite loses a sense of apprehension—something might go wrong—which in itself imposes a mental strain.

Thirdly, qualities of discretion, tactfulness and impartiality are equally necessary. They can prevent ugly scenes from developing—and one has to remember that thefts can take place from customers as well

as from the store's counters. When they are noticed or reported, common sense and levelheadedness are always called for.

#### **The "Security Sense"**

Thus, assuming recruits are made of the right material, training has to be both intensive and careful. Many of our security staff are ex-policewomen. Their previous work and background are invaluable assets. But this need not deter applicants without these qualifications. All are given a training which will build up a security "sense" and technique, together with the necessary discipline. To this basis is added technical knowledge—especially in the law and in court procedure. Trainees are placed always on two years' probation. The period may seem long—but no chances can be taken! Eventually the detective acquires a professional skill and awareness that tells her a shopper or a member of the staff needs to be watched, or that some action is "wrong". Then—and then only—can the detective be called experienced.

Finally, I would like to mention one point. Though the detective's task primarily is to safeguard the firm, in a broader perspective his or her work has a social value. Its aim is to assist in crime prevention—not in finding people to punish—and to that extent alone I believe the store detective has an essential part to play in maintaining standards of conduct and personal well-being.

#### **Warning to Xmas Clubs**

**C**HRISTMAS Club officials in Bucks received a timely warning about the care of the share-out money from Brigadier J. N. Cheney, the county's Chief Constable.

He told them: "Club treasurers should avoid keeping large sums of money in their houses overnight. They can notify the police, confidentially, of the times they are withdrawing large sums from banks or post offices.

"In no case should club officials go to collect these sums single-handed."

"Parents should not send children to collect money from clubs unless they are accompanied by some responsible adult."

#### **Reversion to Habit**

In our November issue we reported that a new police station on a Luton housing estate is being built without a blue lamp—to encourage people to enter.

The new station at Hemel

Hempstead, Herts, where a similar idea was adopted, has been mistaken for a cinema, a library, a factory, and a multiple-store. Now the blue lamp has been added.

#### **Beating Poultry Thieves**

Poultry farmers throughout the country made early plans to beat the bird bandits. In many counties police issued the seasonal warning to farmers and other poultry owners. Trained guard dogs were being used more than ever before, according to reports, and on big farms wired enclosures were patrolled night and day.

Tattooing was more popular than ever. Under a scheme of the National Farmers' Union, poultry keepers are issued with their own brand mark which is tattooed on the wings of the birds.

#### **Safety Man Jailed**

A miner who was appointed safety representative by his union, and was then caught smoking underground, was sent to prison

for 21 days at Dumfries Sheriff Court on 2nd December. The miner, William Lindsay (48), of Greystone Avenue, Kirkconnell, was told by Sheriff W. E. R. Hendry that he had jeopardised the lives of his workmates.

Prosecuting, Mr. C. F. M. Burrell said Lindsay had been appointed safety representative by his union at Roger Mine, Kirkconnell. An inspection party saw him smoking. "There were old workings nearby, where pockets of gas had been detected from time to time," said Mr. Burrell. "There was an element of great danger."

A defence solicitor said Lindsay had lost his job after eighteen years.

#### **Post Office Raid**

Thieves blew open the Pear Tree sub-post office safe at Welwyn Garden City just before midnight on 21st November and escaped with insurance and National Savings stamps worth £3,000 and £700 in cash.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Cheque Legislation

Dear Sir,—Congratulations on the fine quality of the first issue of *Security Gazette*, with its wide variety of interesting articles.

Of particular interest to me, as Security and Fire Prevention Officer for a large industrial group of companies, was the article on payment of wages by cheque. However, I am slightly puzzled by the item headed "Cheque Legislation", wherein it mentions that if Mr. Patrick Maitland's Private Member's Bill is successful, it would allow the manual worker to be paid by open cheque *if he chooses to accept his wages in that way*.

*Stone's Justices Manual* quotes Section 8, The Truck Act, 1831, as providing:

"Payments of wages made by cheques on a bank within 15 miles of the place of payment, or contracts for payment in that form, are equivalent to payment in current coin, *if the workman freely consents thereto*".

If the statement is correct, surely this proviso is the last thing that at present prevents many employers from paying wages of manual workers by cheque.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM F. GROOM

7 Hurst Close, Northolt Park,  
Greenford, Middlesex.  
28th November, 1958.

### Our Legal Correspondent writes:

To bring the payment of wages within Section 8 entails a written contract between employer and workman, and this applies only to certain trades.

### False Fire Alarms

Dear Sir,—I read the first issue of the *Security Gazette* with extreme interest, and am sure it is going to serve a very useful purpose to all concerned with security.

I was particularly interested in the article on page 6 dealing with airport security with its reference to the way in which Press publicity stimulated further false calls at the time of the bomb hoaxes. As a fire officer I have always been convinced that excessive Press reporting leads to an increase in false fire alarms.

Yours faithfully,

A. R. G. WRAY,  
Chief Fire Officer.

Fire Brigade Headquarters,  
Whetstone Lane,  
Birkenhead.  
4th December, 1958.

### Bringing Security Officers Together

Dear Sir,—I have read the first issue of the *Security Gazette* with great interest.

I think the *Gazette* fulfils a great need. For a long time I have been conscious that the various security officers throughout the country have had little knowledge of what other security officers are doing, and

I feel sure that the *Gazette* will receive an abundance of ideas and suggestions on crime prevention from all over the country.

Yours faithfully,

D. J. MOLONEY,  
Burgot Rentals Ltd.

26 Westbourne Grove,  
London, W.2.  
2nd December, 1958.

### Identity Cards for Locksmiths

Dear Sir,—Whilst there can be only general appreciation of the work being done to educate the public in safeguarding their property I should like, as representative of a locksmiths' association, to draw attention to a serious gap in present security measures.

The locksmith is always on call by industry and private individuals. He can be regarded as a public-servant since his job is to help in ensuring the safety of possessions. Yet few are aware of an alarming situation—that any person, even if he has a criminal record—can call himself a locksmith in Britain, get his stationery suitably printed, and on the strength of that even purchase his equipment, picks, and blanks.

In most other countries locksmiths are registered with the police, who issue or recognize a form of security card. Indeed, some States in America have gone so far in precautions as to require finger prints to be incorporated in the cards.

In view of the situation in this country, the association of which I am chairman has instituted a security or identity card for every member. It bears his photograph, signature, name, and the name of his employer. May I suggest that this scheme will be of value to the police and public. Whether it should be extended nationally is a decision for higher authorities.

Yours faithfully,

S. W. FALLSHAW, Chairman.

Greater London Master Locksmiths'  
Association.

### Technical Developments

Nylon has already made its entry into manufacturing industry as a substitute for, and very often an improvement on, iron and steel. Yale and Towne, Ltd., now announce that they are using the material for the construction of a new lock with nylon dead bolt and latch.

### 999 Appeal

An appeal to the public for greater co-operation was made early this month by Erith C.I.D., who declared that reluctance to dial 999 was helping to increase crime in the area.

Several break-ins could have been prevented if neighbours had called police after seeing suspicious happenings.

# GREATER SAFETY IN INDUSTRY

## Fire Warning in all Factories

**S**TRENGTHENING of the laws relating to safety in factories and the prevention of fires are the main provisions of the Factories Bill introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour and supported by the Home Secretary last month. Under clauses 7 and 8, precautions against fire and the provision of fire-fighting equipment may in future be required in all factories.

The Minister may prescribe special regulations specifying means for fighting fire, providing for their testing and the remedying of any defects. The regulations may lay down whether the owner or occupier is responsible. Power is granted the Minister to extend to any factory regulations requiring the provision of fire warnings and the familiarizing of all employees with the means of escape. Warning devices must be tested at least once every three months. Officers of fire authorities are given right of entry and powers are conferred on local councils to withhold certification of a factory pending alterations to premises which they may deem necessary to safeguard means of escape.

### Responsibility for Welfare

Other clauses of the Bill tighten up provisions of the main Acts regarding the cleanliness and painting of factories, the safeguarding of dangerous substances in vessels, sumps, structures or pits, the maintenance of hoists and lifts, precautions against dangerous fumes, and the inspection of boilers.

The Minister is given the duty of promoting health, safety and welfare in factories by collecting and disseminating information and investigating relevant problems. A statutory basis is thus provided for many activities of the kind already undertaken by the Minister.

Penalties for infractions of the Acts and for continuing offences for which daily penalties have been prescribed are generally doubled.

### Co-operative Efforts Effective

Bringing forward the Bill for second reading, the Minister of Labour spoke of a very steady improvement in standards of safety, health and welfare as a result of the Factory Acts over the years. He believed that we had reached a stage when adding to the law by compelling those concerned in industry to do some things and not to do others might not be the best method of proceeding from the present position. It had indeed been the practice over the years for the Factory Inspectorate to act not only as officers to apply the law but as advisers and he knew that work was welcomed in industry. Many industries had set up machinery to discuss these problems of safety,

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## IN PARLIAMENT

health and welfare at a national level. During the last few years both the British Employers' Federation and the Trade Union Congress had taken very useful initiatives in this field to develop interest throughout industry and both had expert committees to deal with safety, health and welfare. It now seemed to him right that this voluntary method of dealing with these subjects should for the first time have a firm statutory basis.

### Prevention at Last

Regarding fire, one of the major themes of the Bill, the Minister of Labour said that it represented a new approach, founded on the simple ancient platitude that prevention was better than cure. It seemed an odd thing but they had never before dealt in factory legislation with the prevention of fire. They had dealt with fire-fighting and tried to do what they could to minimise loss after a fire occurred; the House would need no convincing that it was a much better approach if they could stop the fire from starting.

Many fires took place at night, perhaps as the result of some carelessness during the day, or during the evening hours when the workers had left. Even so, over the past five years 86 workers had been killed by fire and, apart from the loss of life, there was immense damage to property. The total financial losses through fire in 1955 exceeded £27 million and the figures in 1956 and 1957 were very similar. A very sensible development under the Bill, said Mr. Iain Macleod, was that local councils might get help from fire authorities in carrying out their responsibilities for examining means of escape.

### More Inspectors

The Minister reported a great improvement in recruiting for the factory inspectorate; there are more inspectors, both general and specialist, than ever before. Out of an authorized strength of 442, there are 406 posted and 11 awaiting appointment, having passed their examinations. The 25 vacancies were to be filled almost entirely in the chemical and engineering branches. In less than eight years there had been an increase of over 100 in the inspectorate.



### Flexible Hours System

Giving a general welcome to the Bill but promising, on behalf of the Opposition, a "tough" committee stage, Mr. Alfred Robens reminded the House that there would be still some 12 millions of people working for their livings under conditions not covered by the Factory Acts. He felt there was a necessity for tightening up on the number of exemptions relating to hours of work. One must accept the changes that had taken place in the industrial world. New technical processes today very often called for continuous working over periods much longer than normal shift working or double shift working and it might be well that there should be some flexibility. He hoped, however, that that could be obtained without requiring women and younger workers to work longer hours.

Mr. Robens warned the House that the new fire arrangements would require a good deal more inspection than was at present possible. It was not a good thing that inspection of fire hazards should be at such a lengthy interval as once in three or four years.

A supporter of the Bill, Mr. Carr, confessed to some disappointment that greater impetus was not given to the improvement of first-aid work in factories. He had always felt, he said, that a factory of any size ought to have a separate surgery or first-aid room. He did not think that a system of boxes throughout a factory was enough, however well kept and however many the trained workers in first-aid on the spot.

The Bill was duly given a second reading and has since been under examination in standing committee.

### Post Office Raids

A question to the Postmaster-General by Sir Frank Medlicott raised an echo of recent gangster raids on small post offices. He asked whether the Minister was aware of the concern felt by sub-postmasters as to the lack of any assurance that they would receive adequate compensation for injuries suffered whilst protecting Post Office property.

Mr. K. Thompson, replying, said he had considered the representations made by the Federation of Sub-Postmasters. While sympathizing with any who suffered from criminal violence, he was unable to meet the whole demands of the Federation. He had promised to deal sympathetically with each case in the light of the circumstances.

### No C.I.D. for Scotland

The Secretary of State for Scotland deems a separate crime investigation department for Scotland to be unnecessary. He has been asked by Mr. Hannan, the member for the Maryhill division, what consideration he had given to the formation of such a central department equipped with modern methods of detection which would render speedy assistance to police forces throughout Scotland.

Mr. Maclay replied that he did not consider that the existing system, under which each police force was left to decide when outside help was needed, had shown the necessity for such a department.

Mr. Hannan said he had no intention of undermining the influence of the police in Scotland, they were doing good work. But there had been disquiet on the part of the public and the Press at the recent notorious case in Lanarkshire when there was such a long interval between the first crime and the eventual trial of the person involved. Would the Minister consider at least issuing a directive that after a certain interval a police force with the requisite knowledge and technique should be called in, such as the Glasgow Police Force?

Mr. Maclay said the word "directive" was not a very good one in relation to this kind of matter where it was very important to preserve the autonomy of the local police forces to enable them to go on doing the admirable work which they were doing. But he added that he would think about the suggestion carefully. It was perfectly possible under the existing structure to get everything that was desired.

### FIRE IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

Mr. Reader Harris has called the attention of the Home Secretary to the danger to which firemen are exposed when attending fires at road crashes in which tanker lorries carrying inflammable liquids or gases are involved, because the lorries carry no indication of their contents and they were also unknown to the driver. He asked that owners should be compelled to mark the lorries clearly with the nature of their contents.

Mr. R. A. Butler replied that he was about to start discussions on the subject with the trade interests concerned.

## "Most Fair and Honest in the World"

### Police Morale Debate

THOUGH he devoted much of his speech to recent notorious police cases at Brighton and Worcester and delivered himself of the frankest strictures, Earl Winterton in raising the subject of police control in the House of Lords on 8th December was careful to express his personal conviction that we still had the fairest and most honest police in the world.

Lord Winterton called attention to the need for a committee—he withdrew the proposition after hearing the debate—to inquire whether the statutory control of certain local authorities over provincial police forces was being properly exercised, whether the powers of the Home Office Inspector of Constabulary needed to be strengthened, and whether, in the interests of efficiency, it was desirable to amalgamate some of the smaller police forces with other larger forces; and moved for papers. He said he did not want to make any strictures of the provincial police forces as a whole, but to call attention to what he believed were certain weaknesses in the fabric or structure of the provincial police administration.

*Security Gazette*



### Efficient Lancashire

The criminal today, particularly the very dangerous criminal, was far more mobile than he had ever been before, and could flit from one police district to another, said Lord Winterton. He added that he was told that in Lancashire the County Constabulary was one of the most efficient forces in the world, and that its morale, prestige, and efficiency were the equal of the Metropolitan Police Force. But in the same county there were a number of borough police forces which were not always up to the same standard, and he imagined that the county police force was somewhat hampered in its work by the existence of these forces. He urged the Government to continue their policy of persuasion to bring about the amalgamation of police forces which were too small to be efficient. One thing that he was sure of was that, without wishing to condemn local police authorities, there should be a strengthening of the constabulary inspectorate system. If they had a trained staff of C.I.D. men, of Scotland Yard detectives, they could make their own independent inquiries where they had reason to suspect maladministration.

### Powers of Watch Committee

In the course of the debate, Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough said there was perhaps even more need for an inquiry into the general function of each member of a watch committee or standing committee. They seemed to have practically no power to bring pressure to bear at the right time and in the right place. Some of the cases brought to the notice of the public were of such a character that if a member of a standing committee or watch committee had a real inkling of it, there had been no opportunity of him acting locally. Surely a magistrate should have the right to communicate with the Government?

Lord Pakenham said that whatever the difficulties, ambiguities, and uncertainties of the general constitutional position touching the police, they must all feel that the position of the inspectorate could be greatly strengthened without delay.

### Duties of Inspectorate

Lord Chesham, Lord-in-Waiting, replying on behalf of the Government, said that the Home Secretary had no reason to believe amalgamations were required in Lancashire at present because of any inefficiency. In the county there was the county force and 16 city and borough forces and the latter were of good quality attracting a good standard of policeman. Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary took the view that the police in Lancashire were properly efficient.

The inspections were searching and the reports to the Home Secretary very detailed. They showed that it was unlikely that deficiencies in a police force would escape the vigilance of the inspectors. The primary function of the inspectors was to advise the Home Secretary whether the forces were maintained efficiently so that they qualified for the Exchequer grant.

December 1958

He found Lord Winterton's suggestion of a small force of secret detectives unattractive. It would destroy the usefulness of the inspectors in every respect. It was not the function of the inspectors to act as detectives.

### Rights and Duties of Citizenship

Lord Chesham added that he thought it unreasonable to suggest that the inspector should have unearthed the particular corruption in Brighton. It was not one of his responsibilities to do so. What they wanted to learn from Brighton was that there was effective machinery for dealing with this kind of evil, even when the police were the evildoers, and that machinery would be and could be used properly. No citizen need fear that the authorities would be reluctant to act when there was ground for doing so, but the citizen must remember that he must help by bringing suspicious facts to somebody's notice.

As to the charge that the number of inspectors was inadequate, Lord Chesham said that one had recently been added, making five for England and Wales. There was a sixth for Scotland, and one woman inspector, responsible for all the women's police forces. The Home Secretary was satisfied that this number did enable the inspectorate properly to perform their duties.

He hoped that what he had said would persuade the House that the system of police administration worked pretty well.

## LONDON CRIME UP

### Commissioner's Plea to Public

**F**IGURES issued early this month showed an alarming increase in crime in London during the first nine months of the year. If the trend continues, 1958 will have one of the worst crime Christmases known.

Mr. Joseph Simpson, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, declared that many of the crimes could have been prevented by a few common-sense precautions on the part of the public, and he appealed to Londoners to help by doing whatever they could to protect their own property. The police, he said, would continue to use their resources to the best advantage to prevent and detect crime.

### MORE CARS STOLEN

The report made it clear that offences causing the police most time and concern—burglary, house- and shop-breaking and thefts of and from cars—increased by well over a third.

Burglaries showed the biggest increase compared with the same period of 1957. They are up by 64.6 per cent from 480 to 790.

Next on the list came thefts from cars, up by 45.3 per cent from 7,638 to 11,099.

The number of housebreaking offences rose to 6,992 compared with 5,094—an increase of 37.3 per cent, and shop-breaking and warehouse-breaking rose by 33.6 per cent from 7,583 to 10,131.

No fewer than 4,671 thefts of cars were reported—an increase of 31.6 per cent.

## In the Courts

### HIRE PURCHASE "New Terms Help Crime"

Mr. A. L. Stevenson, the Greenwich magistrate, is of opinion that the new low deposits on hire purchase goods encourage crime.

Thomas Charles Ellison, aged 24, labourer, of Armada Street, Deptford, pleaded guilty before him to stealing a typewriter worth £24 3s. and a £52 10s. tape-recorder, and asked for two other offences to be considered including the theft of a TV set worth £83. He was sentenced to six months.

Detective-Sergeant Joseph Ryan told the Court that Ellison paid a small deposit for the articles, on hire purchase, had them delivered to his home and then sold them.

"I realise that firms are keen to sell their goods, but with low deposits these thefts are going to become common," said Mr. Stevenson.

### SIX YEARS FOR POST OFFICE RAIDER

Joseph Poole, aged 29, carpenter, of Whitgift Street, Kennington, was sentenced at Old Bailey to six years' imprisonment for breaking into Southwark Post Office, Elephant and Castle, and stealing stamps and cash value £2,311 from the safe, and causing an explosion there with gelignite likely to endanger life. His brother, William Poole, 31, car dealer, of York Road, Battersea, was sentenced to 12 months for receiving four £1 notes. He was found not guilty of breaking into the post office and stealing; of causing the explosion; and of possessing gelignite and detonators.

Judge Aarvold, passing sentence, told Joseph Poole: "You were prepared to run big risks for what no doubt you hoped would be high reward. You were prepared to rely on your friends if you were caught to get you out of any difficulty. If that sort of behaviour succeeds, the maintenance of law and order will be steadily undermined. In your case it has failed."

### PROTECTION MONEY 18 Months for Detective

A DETECTIVE Constable of the Manchester City Police, James Oliver (45), was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment at the Manchester Crown Court on 2nd December after being found guilty on three charges of corruptly accepting £1 from Joseph Birtles, the manager of a licensed broker's shop in Stockport Road, Long-sight.

The prosecution said that Oliver, of Linden Road, Levenshulme, had been paid about £1 a week by Birtles from April 1957 until July of this year for "showing favour" towards him. Oliver, who denied the offence, agreed that he had been "very friendly and perhaps unduly familiar" with Birtles, but said that he had never been dishonest with him.

Mr. P. Clay, defending, said that Oliver had been in the police for 21 years and had spent ten of them in the C.I.D.

Mr. Justice Thesiger, passing sentence, said: "I don't think, from what I have heard in other cases of this nature, that the prospects after your release from prison are as gloomy as are sometimes made out. But I do thoroughly appreciate that you have lost your character and pension and, what I think must hurt you more than anything else, your boys know what has happened."

"If magistrates, juries, and judges cannot trust the police, people who are guilty cannot be convicted, nor can they be sure that people who seem guilty have not been falsely accused. It is absolutely vital for the integrity of the police force that detectives should not accept what I have indicated might be termed protection money—as I am sure you did—from traders on their district."

### GANG SENTENCED

Four men pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court to robbing with violence Mrs. Margaret Dears and Rosemary Dears, aged 16, of £50, a tape recorder and a mink coat, at Fingest Lane, Bolter End, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, on the night of 17th-18th September. They also admitted breaking and entering a sub-post office at Flackwell Heath and stealing cash,

stamps and cigarettes valued at £1,475, and guilty to two charges of shop-breaking.

The men were William George Clinch, aged 32, carpenter, of Botwell Common Road, Hayes, Middlesex, who was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment; Ronald Pierce, aged 24, driver, of Gledwood Drive, Hayes, who was given six years' imprisonment; Douglas Peter Taylor, aged 25, builder and decorator, of Commonwealth Avenue, Hayes End, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, and Ronald Walter Dowse, aged 37, car hire proprietor, of Denbigh Drive, Hayes, who was sent to prison for three years.

### P.C. Gets Damages

POLICE Constable Harry Ansell, 33-year-old dog handler in the City of London Police, was awarded £100 damages at Bow County Court on 4th December against two senior detective officers who searched his house while only his two young sons were at home. P.C. Ansell, who was a war-time Pathfinder and holder of the D.F.M., claimed damages for trespass against the Commissioner, Colonel A. E. Young, Chief Detective-Inspector William Powner, and Detective-Sergeant Thomas Grealey.

Colonel Young was dismissed from the action with costs. Judge M. R. Nicholas said: "I doubt if the Commissioner should ever have been brought into it."

P.C. Ansell, stationed at Cloak Lane, was granted costs against the two detectives from the same station.

P.C. Ansell's two boys, aged 10 and 8, had in their evidence told the court of the night last March when "two of dad's friends" called at their home—then in Balaam Street, Plaistow.

The detectives said they went to the constable's home while inquiring into thefts of car accessories because they feared that, knowing he was being investigated, he might commit suicide.

The judge said "I believe they were conscious they had no right to go into the house, and were anxious to put forward some justification for it."

P.C. Ansell stated afterwards: "The police force is my career. I intend to stay in it—for the present, anyway."

# INDUSTRIAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

## Country Section Formed

**T**HE Council of the Industrial Police Association, Midland Regional Branch, has decided to open a Country Section of its branch as a temporary measure, to enable industrial policemen from all parts of the country to enjoy membership of the Association immediately, pending the setting-up of branches in their own regions. This arrangement has been welcomed and already the country section membership is steadily growing.

The Industrial Police Association now has its own official badge. The design, which is reproduced on the cover of the Constitution and Rules booklet, is already being produced as an attractive lapel badge in silvered letters and edging on a blue enamelled background. Badges will shortly be available for issue to members.

Arrangements are now nearing completion by the Council, which it is hoped will result in the arranging of a regular series of social evenings for members of the Association at several different points in the Midlands. For the present it is intended to arrange

for social evenings to be held in Wolverhampton, Coventry, Gloucester, and Birmingham—North and South Districts. The Council is confident that these functions will provide members with an opportunity to meet each other in convivial and enjoyable conditions, which it is hoped will encourage and promote an exchange of ideas and information of value to the profession. These evenings will also provide the chairman and members of the Council with a pleasant and valuable opportunity to meet and chat with members on problems of common interest and concern.

### Pilot Training Course

Drawn from the industrial police forces of 12 Birmingham factories, 20 association members attended a Basic Training Course on 1st and 2nd December at the Armoury Road factory of B.S.A., Ltd. It was in the nature of a pilot scheme to provide the Council with experience and information for future developments.

Subjects covered were: fire prevention and fire appliances; aspects of the law; the Factories Acts, 1937-1948; life saving; traffic control; and general responsibilities of the industrial policeman.

*Members of the course during life saving instruction.*



*December 1958*

Inquiries about the Industrial Police Association should be addressed to Mr. D. V. Young, at 20 Wycome Road, Hall Green, Birmingham. Telephone: Springfield 2629.

### Works Policemen Rescue Family

**I**NDUSTRIAL policemen employed at the B.S.A. factory at Small Heath showed their ability to supplement the police and fire services when they went to the rescue, last month, of a family trapped in a burning house. Called to the scene by shouts for help, the policemen brought ladders to enable the family to escape, and gained quick access to the fire by breaking down the front door.

Among them were Sergeant W. Hutton and policemen J. Noble, W. Peters, and Kenneth Moore.

Mr. Noble, it will be recalled, was mentioned in our November issue for his award of a Royal Humane Society certificate for attempting to rescue a drowning man.

### GALLANT NIGHT GUARD

Camberwell Council have commended Mr. Harry Washer, of West Dulwich, a night watchman at the council's housing offices in Peckham Road, for "his courageous action in tackling two men who were attempting to break into the offices".

Mr. Washer heard two men prowling in the yard. He tackled them, and though they beat him up, necessitating hospital treatment for a spinal injury, he was able to give the police a description of the men. The two men failed in their efforts to get into the offices, and nothing was stolen.



## Comment and News

### Beating the Pay-day Thug

CAN'T we stop these pay-day thugs?, asked Mr. Tom Baistow, in an article in the *News Chronicle*, last month.

"Up to date," he wrote, "there have been nearly 80 money snatches in the London area alone this year—almost two a week. Total haul so far: £109,000. Pay bandits, at least, have never had it so good."

Mr. Baistow declared that: "The Government's latest word on the problem brings cold comfort to those who collect their firm's wages money: 'Police chiefs are always willing to advise firms on preventative measures.'

"Police advice? Vary the day, time, route and collectors as far as possible; send husky young men, preferably by car, or taxi.

"Sound common sense as far as it goes. But most firms must collect their money between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on pay day—to keep it overnight in the office would be even riskier. And by keeping premises under careful observation for a week or two a snatch gang can spot the payroll party, husky or otherwise, as they drive off to the bank."

### PROTECTION

Ruling out the carrying of arms, the writer discussed other ways of foiling grab raiders.

"A London firm has sold 2,000 of its alarm cases, which sound a siren when snatched. There are defence batons which radio a 999 signal, and several big Midlands companies have their own security vans with two-way radios which transmit at one-minute intervals.

"But obviously only a limited number of companies can hire armoured cars or own radio vans. And alarm bags and coshes, excellent as they are, do not necessarily prevent messengers from being attacked.

"What about hired guards? London's two biggest private security organisations told me they provide pay escorts—at three guineas a guard—but only a handful of firms use the service."

### PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

But, asked Mr. Baistow, was it necessary to transport the various wages through the streets once a week? They could be paid by cheque if it were not for the Truck Act. For the record, Pye Radio *did* pay their factory employees by cheque for nine months in 1954—until they discovered it was illegal.

"The experiment was a complete success. Not one worker opted out, local shopkeepers co-operated enthusiastically, the system proved more efficient and pay-out overheads were cut," said Mr. Baistow.

America had found the same thing. There more than half the factory workers are paid by cheque.

### ARMOURY RAIDED

Two quick-firing sub-machine guns were taken when the armoury of the closely-guarded operational air-base of the U.S. Air Force at Bentwaters, near Ipswich, was broken into in the early morning of 28th November. Many airmen were absent at the time on Thanksgiving Day celebrations.

A close search of the camp when all airmen were confined to billets revealed no trace of the guns which, it was suggested, might have been the target for an I.R.A. arms raid. This theory is discounted by the U.S. authorities because no ammunition was taken and other weapons were untouched.



*General Serov, who has been dismissed from his post as head of the Russian security police.*

### Appointments

#### New Chief Constables

Mr. T. C. B. Hodgson, Assistant Chief Constable of Birmingham City police, has, subject to the approval of the Home Secretary, been appointed Chief Constable of Berkshire.

Hastings Watch Committee recently appointed Chief Superintendent Donald Leslie Brown, Commandant of No. 6 District Police Training Centre, Sandgate, Kent, as the new Chief Constable. He was chosen from a Home Office approved short list of 10.

#### Dockland Fire Chief

New station officer in charge of the dockland fire station at Tilbury, is Mr. Sidney Hartz.

### Obituary

Guy Maynard Liddell, C.B., C.B.E., adviser on security to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, died on 2nd December at the age of 66. After service in the First World War he joined Scotland Yard, and in 1931 moved to the War Office on special duties. In 1953 he was appointed to his position with the newly-formed Atomic Energy Authority.

*Security Gazette*



## MORE OPEN PRISONS?

ACCORDING to a recent report the Prison Commissioners are anxious to establish more open prisons notwithstanding the growing number of escapes. They are satisfied that existing open jails are fulfilling the object for which they were created. The report said that men of a violent or vicious type or with records of persistent criminality are never sent to open prisons.

Last year 76 escapes were reported compared with only 18 in 1955 and 46 in 1956. But it is pointed out that the prison population has now established a new high record of over 25,000.

In the view of the Commissioners, escapes are inevitable—a risk that has to be taken in the long-term interests of penal reform.

The report stated that the cost of providing and maintaining an open prison is infinitesimal compared with that of a closed jail, and the prospects of restoring an offender's self-respect are infinitely greater when he is relieved of the irksome restrictions and associations inseparable from life behind prison walls.

The most serious opposition to open prisons is that of local inhabitants in whose midst it is sought to establish such a centre.

Yet the Commissioners say they can cite many instances where uncompromising hostility has given way to friendly co-operation.

## FIRE OFFICERS' PAY

The National Council for Chief Fire Officers were informed early in December that Government approval will shortly be given to pay increases recommended last February and referred back for further consideration.

Those chief officers who do not also benefit by grading changes will get the whole of the pay increases recommended, ranging from £85 to £125, back-dated to 1st January this year. The 30 or so who have been transferred to higher grades will also receive this increase and will receive the balance, in most cases £165, in three annual instalments.

The ordinary increases on the maximum will be from £1,925 to £2,050 for Grade I and from £1,190 to £1,325 for Grade 5. A new Grade 6 will have a maximum of £1,275.

## HIGHER PAY FOR WARDERS

PAY rises for prison officers are likely to be announced, after negotiation, in due course. A White Paper recently issued stated that the Government had accepted in principle the recommendations put forward by a departmental committee on the prison services who proposed substantial pay increases, back-dated for certain grades, to January last.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Wynn-Parry, were appointed last October to report on pay and work in the prison services. They also call for an improvement in living and working conditions, some of which they say "can only be described as Dickensian".

## £13,000 LAVENDER HILL RAID

### 9-Year Sentence

ERIC GODFREY, a 24-year-old slater and tiler, of Temple Street, Bethnal Green, was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment at the Old Bailey on Monday, 1st December. He had been found guilty of taking part in the robbery of £13,000 from a Midland Bank cashier after a taxi in which the cashier was travelling had been rammed by a stolen car on 3rd September. He was also convicted of receiving a stolen Jaguar car.

Godfrey had been identified as one of the four men with stockings over their faces who made the raid in the Lavender Hill area.

Counsel said none of the money had been traced.

## STOLE FIRMS' SOAP

A night security officer, Albert Henry Jones, aged 38, of Abbott's Drive, Kenton, was fined £10 at Ealing on 8th December, for stealing eight bars of soap and a bottle of eye lotion from two Perivale factories. He pleaded that he was short of money, as he had been laid off from work.

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### Announcements

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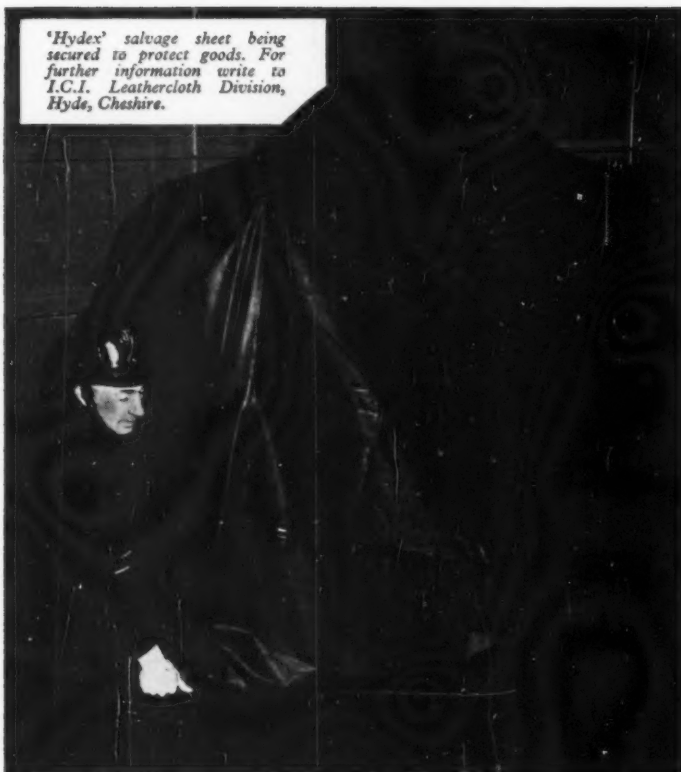
The Editor will be pleased, therefore, to receive notifications from commercial firms, the banks and insurance companies, and from the nationalized industries of security news, staff appointments, meetings and technical developments of value in crime prevention and fire protection.

The Editor would also welcome letters from readers. They should be addressed to him at The Security Gazette, 5-6 Clement's Inn, London, W.C.2.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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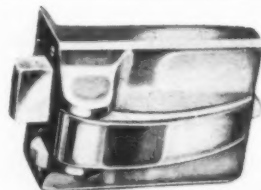


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